

THE TIMES
1785-1985
Tomorrow

Festival fare
British festivals from Aldeburgh to York

Past master
Sir Stanley Matthews on the future for football

Old Etonians
Philip Howard on the first public school museum

Rugby special
Preview of Scotland v Wales and Ireland v France

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio competition daily prize of £2,000 was won yesterday by Mrs S Glen, Helensburgh, Dumbartonshire. Portfolio list, page 20; how to play, information service, back page.

On Saturday £22,000 is available to be won - the £20,000 weekly prize as well as the daily prize of £2,000.

Shultz keen to discuss Ortega offer

Mr George Shultz, US Secretary of State, says he is willing to meet President Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua to see whether the peace plan to impose an arms freeze and send Cuban military advisers home will enhance prospects for a negotiated settlement in Central America.

Earlier story, page 7

Rail chaos warning

Union leaders threatened chaos if British Rail "went over their heads" to cut jobs and "intimidate" their members after management started talks to advise staff of the possibility of more than 2,000 redundancies because of high freight costs.

Chernenko seen

President Chernenko was shown in a five-minute sequence on Soviet television receiving credentials as a parliamentary deputy for the Russian Republic.

Earlier report, page 8

EEC deadlock

European foreign ministers yesterday abandoned talks on Spanish entry to the EEC after two hours following disagreements over access of Spain's fishing fleet to Community waters.

Graves found

Two graves found in Matabeland are believed to contain the remains of two British, two Australian and two American tourists, kidnapped in Zimbabwe in July, 1982.



Win a 1985 BMW for a 1935 price Page 14

Coe's cash plea

Sebastian Coe, a member of the Sports Council, believes Britain's Olympic sports need an extra £6 million over the next four years.

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Leader page, 1.
Letters: On BBC, from Mr C Walters, and others; Speaker, from Mr P James; banned programme, from Ms Liz Forgan and others.
Leading articles: Civil service guidelines; Germans.
Features: pages 14 to 16
James Callaghan: time for trust in a test ban treaty; Politics that in a test ban treaty; Politics that in a test ban treaty; Politics that in a test ban treaty.
The BBC's innermost thoughts; Mrs Thatcher plays the right Hollywood: actor Haing Ngor from The Killing Fields up for an Oscar; systems that sustain the nation.
Obituaries, page 18
Mr Henry Cabot Lodge

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NUM delegates to be pressed for return without deal

● A miners' national delegate meeting, called for Sunday, is likely to consider an executive recommendation for a return to work without a peace deal.

● The Bishop of Durham, Dr David Jenkins, called on strikers to go back, saying they should accept the fact that they had lost.

● Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, has ordered the police operation during the miners' strike as soon as the dispute ends.

By Paul Routledge and David Felton

The pit strike could end on Monday after the failure of peace contacts between the National Coal Board and National Union of Mineworkers yesterday and a fresh acceleration in the strikers' return to work.

But the mass "march back" would be without an agreement on the issue of closing uneconomic pits, the centre of the year-long conflict. There are now fears of a rash of spasmodic strikes when the Coal Board seeks to implement proposals to reduce capacity.

Executive members were privately predicting last night that it might be left to the individual areas to plan the return to work.

A national delegate of NUM conference has been called in London on Sunday. The most likely recommendation from the executive meeting earlier that day would be for a return to work without a peace deal.

Area conference and council meetings over the next two days in Yorkshire, Scotland, south Wales, Durham and Lancashire will seal the fate of proposals to end the dispute.

Some coalfield leaders are reluctant to go along with the "march back" strategy, but Mr Arthur Scargill, NUM president, indicated last night that

Strike policing to be reviewed

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

A wide-ranging review of the police operation during the miners' strike, is to be ordered by Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, as soon as the dispute ends.

The inquiry, to be conducted by Sir Lawrence Byford, Chief Inspector of Constabulary, will be aimed at drawing on the lessons of the strike for police actions in future potentially violent industrial disputes.

The review will cover all aspects of police activities including leadership, tactics employed, and the training required to deal with inflammable situations. It is the result of a tacit admission by ministers that although the operation has generally been regarded as a considerable success, there have been shortcomings which should be put right for the future.

The review will be in addition to the reports which the chief constables will make in any case to their police authorities.

The chief inspector will also draw on the large amount of correspondence sent in by the public, video films, and the experience of the National Reporting Centre in London.

Libya tells students to return

Hundreds of Libyan students in Britain have been told to return home, without being given an explanation (Richard Dowden writes).

According to some sources the figure could be as high as 1,700, nearly half the total number, but official Libyan sources say it is around 200. Some of the students have been told to return within days, even though they are doing or are about to do examinations and their fees have been paid in advance.

The principal of one college, who did not wish to be named, said: "Our students are being told to report to the Libyan interests section in Harley Street and they are told that their course is cancelled and they must return to Libya on the next plane. No explanation is given."

Revenue cracks down on £300m tax loophole

By Christopher Dunne and Lorna Bourke

The Inland Revenue acted yesterday to outlaw bond washing in the gilt-edged market, a dealing tactic in government securities which has been costing the Exchequer approximately £300 million a year in lost revenue. The move heightened speculation that the Chancellor will introduce radical reforms of capital gains tax in his Budget on March 19.

Two options are being discussed as real possibilities. First, a reintroduction of the old distinction between short-term and long-term capital gains, taxing short-term gains as income. This would have little appeal to a truly reforming Chancellor.

More interesting is the possibility that capital gains tax will be abolished and profits above a much higher threshold or exemption limit of, perhaps, £10,000, would be taxed at

Hard times at Hampton Court

By Richard Evans

Palace wants to take in tenants

Hampton Court Palace, the home of kings and queens of England in centuries past and now one of Britain's top tourist attractions, could soon become the home of Arab oil sheikhs and American multimillionaires.

A plan presented to Cabinet ministers proposing introducing legislation to allow many of the Tudor palace's 1,000 rooms to be converted into luxury apartments and let to the highest bidders on short-term leases.

The Queen, who owns the sixteenth-century premises built in Henry VIII's reign, by Cardinal Wolsey has, according to Whitehall sources, been informed of the scheme and not voiced disapproval. The last monarch to live there was George II, in 1760.

Hampton court costs £3 million a year to run but in 1984 the 554,300 fee-paying



The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh entering The Times offices in London yesterday with the editor Mr Charles Douglas-Home

Queen sees The Times at work

By Alan Hamilton

Sovereigns have traditionally enjoyed a somewhat distant relationship with the Fourth Estate of their Realm. When the Queen paid a visit to The Times yesterday, it was only the second time in the 200-year history of this journal that a reigning monarch had crossed the paper's threshold.

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, paid two separate calls, one in the morning when this issue was no more than a random collection of thoughts and scribbles on paper, and one in the evening to see the ideas translated into paper and ink, and to receive one of the first copies of a specially-printed Royal Edition to pour from the press.

Her presence at the beginning and end of the daily cycle of a newspaper was a highlight of this year's celebrations to mark the bicentenary of a sheet founded in the reign of her four-times-great grandfather, King George III.

It was an occasion for fresh paint and crisp white shirts in the proudly grubby and chaotic world of journalism, with editorial staff striving to give the lie to Queen Victoria's not even be admitted into society. Unlike her great-grandmother, the Queen is no stranger to The Times, having become the first reigning monarch to visit the newspaper when she toured its former offices at Blackfriars in 1957.

The Queen was met at the front door by Mr Robert Murdoch, chairman of Times Newspapers Ltd, and Mr Charles Douglas-Home, editor of The Times, who conducted her on a tour of editorial departments. The Duke, a few steps behind, sprang at a group of waiting reporters and cameramen to ask whether they were opposition; they were.

In the editor's office the Queen met senior executives of the paper, and was shown Haydon's celebrated nineteenth-century painting, *Waiting for the Queen*, depicting an avid reader poring over a news sheet the size of a tablecloth. As she entered the newsroom the normally cacophonous telephones observed a brief and obliging silence as she met home and foreign news editors.

At the picture desk, the Queen was intrigued by a vast telephoto lens, used by some newspapers to observe herself and her family at indirectly close quarters, but by The Times, she was assured, for photographing cricket matches.

While meeting some of the newspaper's specialist correspondents she engaged in a brief informal discussion with Mr Paul Routledge, labour



Pound suffers again as dollar recovers

By Bailey Morris in Washington and David Smith

The dollar started climbing again yesterday after the dramatic falls earlier this week. Dealers said that market sentiment still favoured the dollar in spite of Wednesday's heavy central bank intervention.

The pound fell 73 points to \$1.0827, later dipping to \$1.0750 in New York. The sterling index dropped 0.3 to 71.3.

Trading was described as thin and nervous in the aftermath of the chaos of the previous day. The German Bundesbank is thought to have sold dollars modestly but other central banks, including the Bank of England, stayed out.

The German intervention came as the dollar edged up to DM1.35 against the mark. It ended the day at DM1.34, unchanged on the previous close.

The pound lost ground against most currencies, dropping over a penny against the mark to DM13.6129. A further fall in oil prices on the European spot markets, with North Sea Brent crude for March delivery down 20 cents a barrel, added to the pressure on the pound.

Some dealers argued that the central banks could well take advantage of quiet markets today and intervene further.

However, the general view was that the dollar's recovery will proceed at a steady pace.

Trade figures for the US, published yesterday, underlined the impact of the strong dollar on the American economy.

The trade deficit increased sharply last month to \$10.3 billion as US companies, battered by the strong dollar, increased their appeals for protectionist measures from the Reagan Administration.

Commerce Department officials said the deficit grew by 28 per cent in January despite a record volume of exports totalling \$19.4 billion. The deficit resulted from a surge of imports which increased by 9.2 per cent last month, largely because of the strong dollar which set records against most major currencies, officials said.

Last year, the US trade deficit nearly doubled to a new record of \$123.3 billion and officials are now saying that if the dollar remains high the deficit this year could reach \$140 billion.

The new figures were released as US machine tool companies, textile firms and motor car manufacturers lobbied Congress for protectionist legislation, which the Reagan Administration strongly opposes.

Judge to examine phone taps

By Julian Haviland and Anthony Berins

The Government yesterday announced that Lord Bridge of Harwich, the senior judge whose duties include the annual monitoring of telephone and mail interceptions, has been asked to examine allegations that the security service, MI5, broke its own code in spying on trade union leaders, prominent members of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and others.

Lord Bridge is expected to report early next week on whether proper procedures and criteria have been observed in the authorizing of interceptions.

But Mr Neil Kinnock, leader of the Opposition, said that if Lord Bridge's inquiry resulted in an over-hasty whitewash of the allegations, a future Labour government would crack down on the security services.

Mr Kinnock said to reporters as Westminster that, if it was found that there had been "unauthorized use of the procedures, then the next Labour government will be taking a different view of the security services."

"If the security services over a period of years abuse their powers, then a government with the will can to an extent discover that and prevent it," he added that that was not a threat but a promise.

Chase wreckage

Seven police cars and two private cars were badly damaged during a high-speed chase in Middlesbrough, Cleveland. A motorist later appeared in court and was remanded in custody for a week.

Mortar attack kills police

By Staff Reporters

Several people were killed and others seriously injured in a mortar attack on Newry police station in Northern Ireland last night.

The RUC said: "It could be the heaviest death toll to be suffered by the RUC in any single incident". The previous highest toll was five.

The RUC said some of the casualties had been seriously injured. The police station was extensively damaged.

In 1980, the Army was almost totally withdrawn from the border town of Newry, leaving the RUC to take over the brunt of the security operation.

A few soldiers were left to guard the police station and the Army base.

The police station provides a strategic target in the border town where 50 per cent of the population is Roman Catholic.

The attack, in which six direct hits were reported, was thought to have been carried out by the IRA in retaliation for considerable security forces successes.

Daisy Hill hospital in Newry said only that some people had been admitted.

The explosion, shortly before 7pm was heard well over a mile away.

Mr Billy Baines in charge of the sorting office at Newry Post Office, was on duty with 12 colleagues when the attack happened. He said: "We heard at least three, perhaps four very loud bangs and the windows rattled. We knew that it was different from an ordinary bomb explosion. One of my colleagues who lives next to the police station has had his house very badly damaged and he is in a bad state of shock."

Mr Baines said the police station is protected with chain link fencing about 12 ft high and a watchtower.



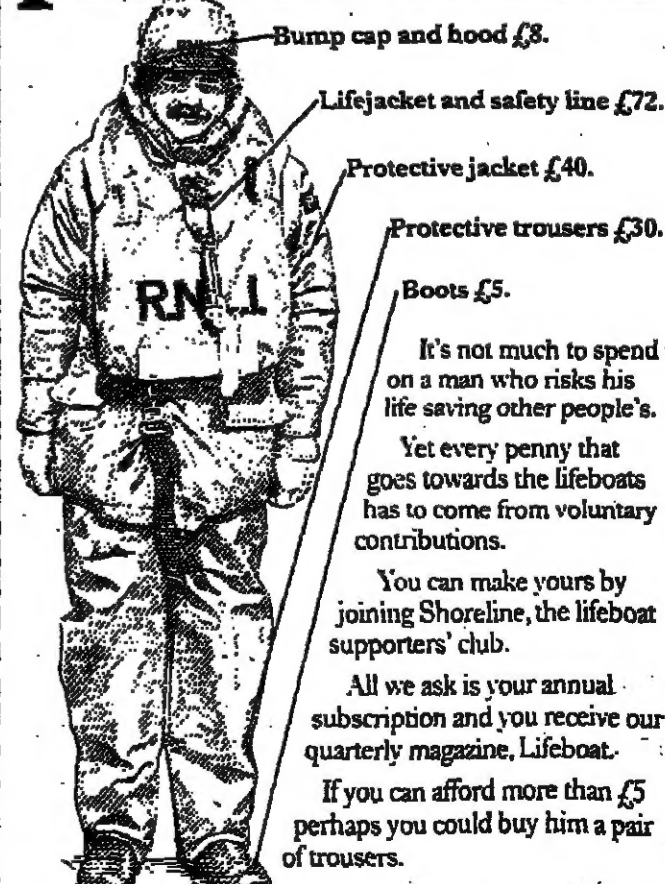
Public services spending urged

The Government is to be asked to set up a national board to co-ordinate investment in sewers, water pipes, motorways, gas, electricity, oil, and British Telecom.

The Institution of Civil Engineers has reviewed the country's infrastructure and in a report to be published this month will recommend both increased investment, and a new top level co-ordinating committee involving both government and contractors.

Spectrum, page 14

£5 buys him a pair of boots.



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Member £5 or more p.a. ☐ Family Membership £7.50 or more p.a. ☐
Member & Governor £15 or more p.a. ☐ Life Member & Governor £150 or more. ☐ Or, I enclose a donation of £
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By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

new cars was immense and the design and engineering of body panels for the Sierra cost more than £90 million. We have to maintain supply of more than 4,000 panels for current and past models but the copiers are only interested in selling the more profitable 150.

"This is the first time that any attempt has been made to use competition laws to erode the established rights provided by the laws of industrial property. Any change in the law would be damaging to us and could have far-reaching implications for the whole of British industry."

The investigation was referred to the commission last May by Sir John Boring, director-general of Fair Trade,

and followed Ford's decision to institute legal proceedings against companies over alleged counterfeiting of body panels and grille at prices sometimes more than three times lower than those of Ford dealers.

The commission called for amendments to the Registered Designs Act, 1949 and the Copyright Act, 1956 limiting protection of designs - five instead of 15 years which, it concludes, would be of particular benefit to second-hand buyers.

Competition from the independents had had a beneficial effect on prices and on innovation, it said. "It is particularly important to owners of older cars, without the independents'

bility for the situation. That latent betrayal of trust is dishonesty in the extreme."

He added: "But when Arthur's finished massaging his ego nightly in public, and it really is indecent exposure on an abhorrent scale, the nation may be able to turn its undivided attention to genuine economic recovery."

"I don't promote trade unionism because it has been undermined by 'Scargillism,'" he said. "Too many people have failed to distinguish between the 'mindless militants and the mindful moderates'."

There were more than enough people in British industry who were anxious to disagree rather than to build and who hid behind empty slogans amid reckless rhetoric, he said.

By Richard Thomson

Mr Montagu also called for substantial improvements in the complaint procedures in other areas of the savings sector, although he believed it too early to set up a single savings ombudsman to cover all parts of the industry.

Mr Montagu also said, a system of redress was needed to deal with pensions problems. He said that a pension was the single most important saving for many people.

Moreover, the powers of the ombudsman should be widened to include complaints against intermediaries as well as insurance companies. It should also be able to deal with actuarial matters. He said, consumers needed to get "extremely bad value for money if they had to surrender a policy soon after taking it up".

He said "any new complaints system should be financed by the area of the savings industry concerned".

Prince aids campaign on homeless

The Prince of Wales has lent his support to a campaign to combat homelessness among the young, due to be launched today.

In a message of support to the Young Homelessness Group, the Prince says he recognizes that "for young people, leaving home and gaining independence is an issue of paramount importance in their lives. This is complicated by lack of housing and employment options open to them".

The Young Homelessness Group includes the British Youth Council, the Campaign for Single Homeless People, Shelter, and the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders.

They say that homelessness among the young is growing.

The British Youth Council said: "Young people will leave home as they require independence, and we need to ensure that this process is made as easy as possible".

The group has produced a set of working papers, to be published today, recommending initiatives to avoid "a future housing catastrophe".

By Clifford Webb, Motoring Correspondent

production, but we are working progressively with that aim".

The children aged 14 and 15 who were riding C5s today, were the first of the "electric generation". It was possible that they would never drive a petrol-powered car, "because we shall be supplying their electric car needs in the future," he said. Modified versions of the C5 would follow in the coming months to increase its range, visibility, and to make it suitable for overseas markets.

The next big step, the C10, was about two years away, and there would be a side-by-side two-seater, again using three wheels, with a top speed of 30mph and a range of 40 miles without charges, which were doubtless the present "big" range claimed for CS. Clive said. It would carry a steering wheel, in preference to the handlebars of the present

A legal attempt to claim married status for male and female homosexual couples living together failed in the House of Lords yesterday. The law lords refused to hear an appeal by Mary Simpson, a lesbian, against her eviction by Harrogate Borough Council from the council house in Pennon Road, Harrogate, she shared with her lover, Mrs Micki Rodrigo, who died a year

Last December, the Court of Appeal ruled that, in spite of a longstanding offering of public opinion, homosexual couples living together could not remotely be regarded as "man and wife," leaving their security of tenure under the Housing Act, 1980.

The law lords refused Mrs Simpson leave to argue her case. Lord Fraser of Tullybelton told her counsel, Mr Robert Allen: "It seems to me that you are fighting for a social revolution, but that is more than the courts can do. It is a matter for Parliament. I don't accept that the Parliament passed the Housing Act 1980 if they meant a homosexual couple to be treated as husband and wife."

Lord Brandon commented at Harrogate council, having established their rights, might now think it right to grant Mrs Simpson a new tenancy.

But after the hearing, a legal spokesman for the council said at Mrs Simpson, who was said to be living on social security, had already left the council house and moved out of the area. "If she were to apply for a tenancy, it could be decided in the normal way on the merits."

Trull Primary School near Taunton, Somerset, has sold its new "Noddy type" pedal car for £500.

After it was reported in *The Times* that the school was planning to sell the car to raise money for computers, Mrs Margaret Jones, the headmistress, was inundated with offers from enthusiasts.

100 new jobs

A hundred new jobs are to be created as part of a £6 million investment by Convec Inter-national, which makes metallic board and paper, at Caerphilly, near Glamorgan.

The ultimate aim was C15, every way a family car, using very streamlined body already being tested in a wind tunnel. The traditional lead acid batteries which powered C5 and C10 would not be suitable, but he was very optimistic about a new power source being developed by an outside specialist.

Sir Clive said he hoped the C5 would be "angely profitable" so that funds could be ploughed back to produce C10 and C15.

The outlets now selling C5 include 200 Comet stores, selected Woolworths, 100 Telford's stores in the Midlands, and 30 Rayfords Supreme Discount Stores along the south coast.

Between 5,000 and 6,000 C5s have already been sold, the bulk by mail order.

Discovering mammals, an exhibition for the blind and partially sighted, opens at the Natural History Museum in London today. At a preview yesterday Maela Forrester (left), eight, eight, from Thames Ditton, Surrey, explored a deer with the help of a recorded commentary while Rupert Agutter, aged 12, from Crawley Down, West Sussex, got to grips with a dolphin. The exhibition runs until the end of the month (Photograph: Barry Beattie).

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Government has been accused by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals of allowing breaches of the law on the transport of live animals.

The society has lodged a formal complaint before the European Commission, a document outlines numerous breaches of EEC directives on animals being moved from one country to another; and showing how both the UK and French governments have failed fully to implement the directives.

It maintains that the Ministry of Agriculture appears unable to take effective action to prevent such breaches.

A lawyer for the society said that to obtain a licence to export animals, hauliers had to declare

Fans of *Dr Who* were yesterday offering to save their hero and were even considering attempting the BBC a co-production deal to stop their programme from being discontinued for 18 months.

American fans suggested financial backing to save the cult *Dr Who* series after news of the BBC decision reached the United States.

"Organizers of *Dr Who* fan clubs were so shocked they stayed up all night to start 'Save the Doctor' campaigns," Mr Ron Katz, a spokesman for one of the American clubs, said.

Katz said there were 100,000 members in official clubs in the United States but there were millions more fans throughout the country.

Kenneth Levy, a millionaire stockbroker, has left his valuable art collection to the Tate and National Gallery.

The collection includes a Renoir, Monet, Matisse, Corot and Utrillo. In his will, published yesterday, the galleries receive the collection when his wife, Helena, dies.

His friend and former partner at the London Stock Exchange, Mr Bryan Carstairs, said yesterday: "These pictures have been sold at an average of £1 million. He paid a few hundred pounds for each of them and of course they became fabulously valuable."

"But he bought them because he liked them. He liked to have them on his wall. He got very annoyed with people trying to buy them not because they liked them, but because they thought they might become more valuable."

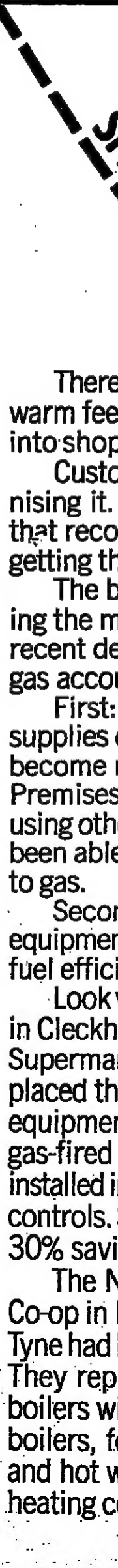
"He said the reason to buy a picture is because you want to look at it and enjoy it, not because you want to flog it later on. He never sold a picture and never bought one unless he truly liked and wanted it."

Mr Levy, who was 86 when he died in December, left estate valued at £2,162,227 net.

Mr Levy, who retired from the stock exchange about 20 years ago, also left £17,000 to various charities. He joined the Friends of Tate when it was formed in the 1960s and made the bequest through the organization.


A spokesman for the friends said yesterday they were "very pleased" about the gift.

Other wills, page 18

A black and white photograph showing the lower half of a person wearing jeans, with a bicycle wheel visible in the background. The image is oriented vertically, matching the text layout.

SHOPS CAN WARM

There's a lovely warm feeling getting into shopping these days. Customers are recognising it. And the shops that recognise that are getting the benefits. The brand that's leading the market is gas. Two recent developments in gas account for this lead. First: Since 1983 supplies of gas have become more available. Premises that have been using other fuels have now been able to make a move to gas. Second: The latest equipment is getting more fuel efficient. Look what happened in Cleckheaton. Hillard Supermarkets Ltd. replaced their heating equipment with modern gas-fired boilers. They installed improved heating controls. Smiles all round. 30% saving in fuel costs. The North Eastern Co-op in Newcastle upon Tyne had been using gas. They replaced their old boilers with new gas boilers, for their heating and hot water, with improved heating controls.



SAVERS FOR 50% OFF. →

And saved 50% on fuel costs.

From small shops to supermarkets all over the country the news is getting around about the new developments in gas. Business can definitely benefit from it, and save costs at the same time.

How about your store?

Contact Commercial Sales at your British Gas region, and we'll analyse both your present and future fuel requirements.

We'll sort out the equipment to suit your premises and requirements. We know you'll

know a bargain when you see it.

Gas

GAS IS WONDERFUEL

Thatcher orders judge to investigate

COMMONS

In view of recent allegations that the telephone of Lord Bridge of Harwich, the judicial monitor of communications interceptions and surveillance, had been tapped, the Prime Minister has asked Lord Bridge of Harwich, the judicial monitor of communications interceptions and surveillance, to examine the relevant papers to determine whether the tapping had taken place since May 1979 have named the individuals in question.

If so, he will examine whether the authorities have been sought and given in accordance with the procedures and criteria in the White Paper of 1980.

Mr. Lord Bridge, the Home Secretary, made this announcement during question time exchanges in the Commons when reference was made by Mr. Michael Bates (East Hampshire, C) to "wild allegations" that during the miners' strike the police had been tapping the telephones of Lord Bridge.

Mr. Bates said he was aware of the allegations made particularly in a television programme which was not ultimately confirmed by the police. He said that the Home Secretary was subject to continuing review by the monitor of interception arrangements, formerly Lord Diplock and now Lord Bridge of Harwich.

After announcing that the Prime Minister had ordered, Mr. Bates added: As the allegations made in the programme relate predominantly to the period before May 1979, the Prime Minister is seeking the agreement of former Prime Ministers and Home Secretaries involved that this review should in addition cover their period of office as far as necessary.

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chucking bottles at them as we saw on television at the weekend. If people turned up looking for trouble, they were lucky to be living in this country where they did not get what they deserved.

Mr. Bates said that with the return to work of many more miners it was as well to remember that those who preceded them and those who had never stopped work had been able to make that choice because of the steadfast resolve of the police who combined and finally defeated violence and intimidation by a relatively small proportion of striking miners.

Mr. Robert Maclean (Cathness and Sutherland, SDP) said that because of the relevance of the Bridge inquiry to the legislation which the Secretary of State proposed to put before the House on Wednesday, would the Bill be withdrawn until MPs had the Bridge report before the House?

Mr. Bates replied that that was a matter for the Leader of the Commons (Mr. John Biffen).

Mr. Anthony Fawell (Stockport, C) said almost every problem arising out of the policing of the dispute had arisen because of the union's failure to follow its own picketing guidelines.

Legislation should be introduced as soon as possible to ensure that in future unions engaging in mass picketing bore the cost of picketing. Mr. Bates agreed that if the unions had complied with its own guidelines there would have been no picketing and no law and order problem.

On Mr. Fawell's second point, the review of public order taking place would consider all aspects of the matter not only in relation to what had occurred during the strike but to all aspects of public order. He would take account of Mr. Fawell's point.

Mr. David Wainwright (Walsall North, Lab) if the allegations are true in the film *M15 Official Secrets*, such activities are unacceptable in a democratic society. There is a question of subversion: the view must be that the methods used by Special Branch and the Security

Service, if true, are themselves subversive. It is wrong for individuals such as the chairman of CND, or general secretary, should be harassed in this manner.

Mr. Bates said he was not prepared to join him in that speculative examination. But it is right that interception and surveillance should follow the proper procedures and proper criteria.

The definition of subversion supplied by Lord Harris as long ago as 1975 has stood the test of time and is the right one. I have no wish

the Maxwell Fyfe directive, been used for purely political purposes. It did not deal, either, with unauthorized interceptions.

When the Speaker (Mr. Bernard Weatherill) interrupted Mr. Kaufman as he asked more questions, Mr. Kaufman said he wanted to put one or two further questions because the Home Secretary had behaved quite improperly in making a major statement in response to a planted supplementary question, and the rights of the Opposition must be protected.

The Bridge inquiry he went on, seemed to have terms of reference deliberately designed to produce the answer that the Government wanted. It would also be quite improper to proceed with the interception of Communications Bill.

Above all (he said) the country will not tolerate a cover-up on this matter. It wants the truth and we insist on the truth (Labour cheer).

Mr. Bates: Leaving said his rhetoric, I am sure he will, on reflection, regret what he has said with the imputations contained in it. I have no doubt Lord Bridge will conduct his inquiry quickly. It has a comparatively narrow compass. As to the timing of the interception which is a matter for the Leader of the House.

He is right: the inquiry is related to interception, which is an aspect covered by Lord Bridge as monitor. As for false classification being something subversive, that will come directly within the inquiry by Lord Bridge because, of course, if somebody has been intercepted in a way that is contrary to the criteria, then this is something which Lord Bridge will cover.

As for party political abuse, that is something that will be covered. As far as unauthorized interception is concerned, the Bill that is coming forward will be a matter for the criminal law which previously for the most part it was not.

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Milk deal to help British producers

EEC AGRICULTURE

The latest meeting of the EEC Council of Agriculture Ministers in Brussels was highly satisfactory for the United Kingdom. Mr. Michael Jopling, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said in a statement to the Commons.

The decisions made on wine, he said, comprised the second major step, after milk, to bring reality into the common agricultural policy and modifications to the milk regime were of great importance.

Mr. Jopling said for one year only unused milk quota would be permitted to be carried over between producers and between regions. Provided there was no abrupt change in levels of milk production, he expected this to relieve all liability for levy on wholesale milk sales to the UK for 1984-85.

This was of particular benefit to Northern Ireland. He also expected liability for levy on direct sales to be substantially reduced, though it was not yet possible to say whether it would be eliminated.

The council agreed on a series of important measures to bring wine production under control. There was a commitment to a restrictive price policy for as long as a significant structural surplus remained.

Mr. Bryan John, chief Opposition spokesman on agriculture, said the changes in the milk quota scheme would make it a little less rigid. When would the milk quota scheme be working everywhere rather than just in the UK as it was at the moment? What was going to be done with the surplus wine?

Mr. Jopling replied that he had made his position on the Irish question very clear.

Mr. Robert Maclean (Cathness and Sutherland, SDP) said a broad environmental agreement in the next Council meeting and military could continue to make progress to that assistance was given to farmers in certain sensitive areas to encourage them to continue using certain farming methods.

Mr. Jopling said he hoped there would be final agreement on environmental arrangements in the next Council meeting and military could continue to make progress to that assistance was given to farmers in certain sensitive areas to encourage them to continue using certain farming methods.

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Counting the cost of miners' dispute

COAL DISPUTE

Miners still on strike should return to work now to rebuild the industry which their leadership has decided not to protect, said Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during questions in the Commons.

She was replying to Mr. Michael Hirst (Stratford-on-Avon, Con) who said that the Government had decided not to protect the industry.

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£8.5m plan for Cardiff dock development

WALES

Mr. Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, announced today that he had given approval in principle to an urban development grant framework based on a grant of £8.5 million in respect of the Tarmac proposals for the redevelopment of the Butte East Dock area of south Cardiff.

This is an important day for Cardiff (he said). No development can take place until all statutory procedures associated with the acquisition of the necessary land are fulfilled. But, subject to those provisions, I am confident that the UDG framework which I have approved will enable the county to proceed with the redevelopment of the Butte East Dock area of south Cardiff.

The chairman of Tarmac assured me today that he was enthusiastic to go ahead with this scheme and the company would do everything they could to make the scheme work as it was originally conceived. He committed the resources of Tarmac and I, for my part, said that we would approach our commitments with the flexibility which is necessary for a scheme of this scale and complexity.

It was almost exactly two years since he had called for proposals to be brought forward for the comprehensive redevelopment of the largely derelict docklands area of south Cardiff. The response had been most encouraging.

This year would see very substantial investment in major projects by the Japanese who had gone out of their way to say that they understood that the dock strike was wholly exceptional and that industrial relations and performance in their plants in Wales and in their suppliers' plants was first class.

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Record of mental care criticized

By Nicholas Timmins,
Social Services
Correspondent

Powerful criticism of the policy of care in the community for the mentally ill and handicapped has come from the Commons Social Services Committee.

In a bluntly worded report the MPs say that "any fool can close a long-stay hospital. It takes more time and trouble to do it properly and compassionately."

The pace of removal of hospital facilities for the mentally ill has far outrun the provision of services in the community to replace them, the MPs say. That has produced "horror stories" of the mentally ill living on the streets, in miserable board and lodging and sleeping rough on park benches.

There is ample evidence of the decaying of patients from mental illness hospitals in years past without sufficient development of services for them. This has produced a population of chronically mentally ill people with nowhere to go.

The committee has issued a warning that inappropriately discharged patients "may end up taking their own lives if not other people's."

The committee, nevertheless, provides backing for a properly ordered rundown of mental and mental handicap hospitals, saying it "wholeheartedly" supports a policy of community care for the mentally disabled. It warns the government, however, that such a policy will cost more money, not less.

"We are at the moment producing a mental disability service which is under-financed and understaffed both in its health and social aspects," it says.

Proceeding with a policy of community care on a cost-neutral assumption is not simply naïve, it is positively inhumane. Community care on the cheap would prove worse in many respects than the pattern of services to date.

Only a real increase in spending spread over some years will achieve genuine community care, the committee says.

Hospital services must not be reduced or closed before demonstrably adequate alternatives have been provided, both for those discharged and for those who would otherwise seek admission.

Because savings from run-down or closure of hospitals are mainly achieved only at the end of a rundown, the committee says the Department of Health and Social Security must create a central bridging fund to allow the new services to be financed and set up before closures take place.

Extra staff taken on by social services to run community care should be excluded from manpower controls.

Experience from the United States provides a powerful warning of what can happen if facilities, however imperfect, are closed before alternatives are provided. Lessons from such hasty and erratically funded change in other countries must be taken to heart in Britain, the committee says.

Community Care: Second report from the Social Services Committee 1984-85. (House of Commons Paper 13-1, Stationery office: £7.65).

Sultan's gift will buy scanner

The Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London, is to spend part of a £1.5 million gift from the Sultan of Brunei on a new scanner. The hospital said that the gift would help it to remain at the "forefront of clinical treatment of children."

Dearer eggs

The price of large eggs will rise by 2p a dozen next week and the wholesale price of small eggs is going up by 4p a dozen, so their retail price could be even higher, Goldenlay, the egg farmers' co-operative, said yesterday.

Paper to close

An East Sussex weekly newspaper, the *Brighton and Hove Gazette*, is to close on March 8 after 164 years. It will merge with a free distribution newspaper also published in the area by the Westminster Press Group. There are to be no redundancies.

Improved Arts Council funding for regions delayed

By David Hewson,
Arts Correspondent

The Arts Council's plans to increase support for regional theatres and orchestras have been postponed because of uncertainty about local authority support for the scheme.

The council had intended to announce today an extra £3 million in aid for the regions, with up to £2 million in matching grants from local authorities. But the local authorities, predicts that the bulk of the available development money will go to large drama companies, to improve salaries of performers in dance companies, and to form new partnerships in the visual arts.

Details of the distribution of the development funds are now not expected to be released until March 29.

Most organizations have been limited to a 2 per cent increase, less than inflation. But Lord Gowrie, Minister for the Arts, included an extra £2 million in the budget specifically for the regional development programme outlined in last year's council document, *The Glory of the Garden*.

Northern Arts, the regional association, predicts that the bulk of the available development money will go to large drama companies, to improve salaries of performers in dance companies, and to form new partnerships in the visual arts.



Mr and Mrs Nicola taking sanctuary in church yesterday in an attempt to avoid deportation (Photograph: Murray Job).

A Greek Cypriot couple have sought sanctuary in a church in final attempt to avoid deportation (Richard Dowden writes).

Mr Vassilis Nicola, aged 34, and his wife, Katerina, aged 38, have been given refuge in the Anglican church of St Mary the Virgin, Euston, north London, and are prepared to stay there indefinitely. Their request to move into a Greek Orthodox church was refused by Archbishop Methodios Foyanis on the grounds that they would be breaking the law.

The couple are in the south aisle of the bleak nineteenth century church with two camp beds, three suitcases and flasks of coffee. The Community Relations Council brought them a portable gas fire.

"If I have to go back to Cyprus it would be terrible," Mr Nicola said. "We have no home and no job to go to."

Mr and Mrs Nicola arrived in Britain nine years ago after being driven from their home in north Cyprus during the Turkish invasion of the island in 1974. After receiving help from relatives Mr Nicola worked as a presser in a clothing factory

and his wife worked as a machinist.

Father Philip Dyson, vicar of St Mary's, said he was asked to give sanctuary to the couple by the Greek Cypriot community in the area. "It is not an inconvenience," he said. "It is a humanitarian gesture on the part of the church. It is the job of the church to care for the poor and the outcast."

The Home Office said that the Nicolas came originally on a three-week visit. They have not produced evidence that they were displaced persons in Cyprus so they do not qualify for the concessions granted to Greek Cypriot refugees in 1982.

The adjudicator and the Immigration Appeals Tribunal have rejected their appeals and they were finally ordered to leave Britain yesterday.

Although sanctuary, under which fugitives from the civil law could claim immunity on consecrated ground which came under ecclesiastical law, has not had any validity since the Middle Ages, it is not thought that the police will enter the church to arrest the couple.

Lupins may be farmers' bright hope

By John Young,
Agriculture Correspondent

Fields of white-flowered lupins could soon become a familiar feature of the English countryside, contrasting with the bright yellow of oilseed rape. If farmers can be persuaded of its value as a break crop and as a substitute for imported animal feed.

Last year some 200 hectares (450 acres) were planted on an experimental basis, largely as a result of an EEC decision to introduce a guaranteed price of £196.67 a tonne.

This week a seminar in London was held that the results had been encouraging, in spite of less than ideal weather. Growers taking part in a scheme organized by a firm of grain and seed merchants expressed guarded enthusiasm, provided yields could be improved.

Mr John Hardy, seeds director of Kenneth Wilson Anglia Ltd, said that more than 2,000 acres were contracted to grow lupins this year.

Lupins can be used as forage or silage, or the seeds used as an ingredient of feed concentrates. They also have potential applications as food additives and in pharmaceutical manufacture.

The crop's main attraction is as a possible substitute for soya, of which the EEC imports large quantities. Soya is now being increasingly cultivated in southern France and in Italy, but it will not grow in northern latitudes, whereas lupins can be grown as far north as the Scottish borders.

Husband talks his way to divorce

A retired engineer, Mr Albert Collins, talked his way to a divorce yesterday. His wife, Margaret, could not be expected to put up with his shouting and haranguing a moment longer, Mr Justice Hollis said.

Mr Collins, aged 67, would sit in their house all day in his pyjamas, shouting his opinions at anyone prepared to listen and even those not prepared to, the judge said.

"Anything will set him off, such as something he sees on TV or reads in the newspaper," the judge added. His "extraneous behaviour" drove all his wife's friends from the house because whenever they came round he would launch forth in a tirade.

Mr Collins had a dark skin because his mother was Indian and his father an English soldier serving in India. He came to England in 1950 but had a "burning sense of grievance," the judge said.

The couple married in 1956 and have six children. From the

Industrial tribunal procedure simplified

By Frances Gibb,
Legal Affairs Correspondent

New measures aimed at speeding up and simplifying industrial tribunals which deal with unfair dismissal complaints, redundancy payment claims and other disputes, come into force today.

The changes will enable the tribunals to issue decisions in summary form, so that simpler, written findings can be issued more quickly. That will save time, accelerate tribunal procedures and remove some of the legal jargon, thus easing the tribunals' pressure of work.

The procedure for the past 20 years has been to give full reasons for tribunal decisions. These are often very detailed and run to several pages.

Other technical changes are aimed at helping applicants through the tribunal procedure. Legal aid is not available and therefore many applicants cannot afford a lawyer to represent them.

There has been concern both about the pressure of work on the tribunal and at the trend away from the original aim of a non-legistic adjudication process accessible to the layman.

The changes will apply to 90 per cent of all cases heard by tribunals. The new speeded up procedure will not apply, however, where one of the parties to the case requests a full decision, nor in cases involving sex or race discrimination where full rulings will continue to be given.

Industrial tribunals are independent judicial bodies consisting of a legally qualified chairman and two other members drawn from panels representative of employers and employees.

They were set up under the Industrial Training Act, 1964, and hear complaints under a number of Acts of Parliament.

In 1983 there were 39,959 applications to industrial tribunals and 16,785 hearings.

In a recent editorial the *Solicitors' Journal* called for the changes be carefully monitored. They must not make it more difficult for litigants to appeal against tribunal decisions or for the Employment Appeal Tribunal to act as an effective appellate body.

Industrial tribunals, the journal said, have to interpret and apply complex and detailed statutory provisions of wide import. In giving their decisions in summary form, they must give cogent reasons so there can be no charge that "they dispense arbitrary justice and are inferior to ordinary courts".

Headless corpse was tourist from Nigeria

Detectives hunting the killer of a woman whose dismembered body was found on a rubbish tip at Pitsa, Essex, last November, may fly to Nigeria to interview her husband.

Essex police named her yesterday as Mrs Veronica Odoemenam, aged 31. Her husband, Mr Peter Fohi, aged 36, an airline pilot, returned alone to Nigeria on November 9.

Mrs Odoemenam's headless torso was discovered four days later among rubbish transferred by barge from Grosvenor wharf in central London. Detectives later found other parts of her body, including her head, but her right leg remains missing.

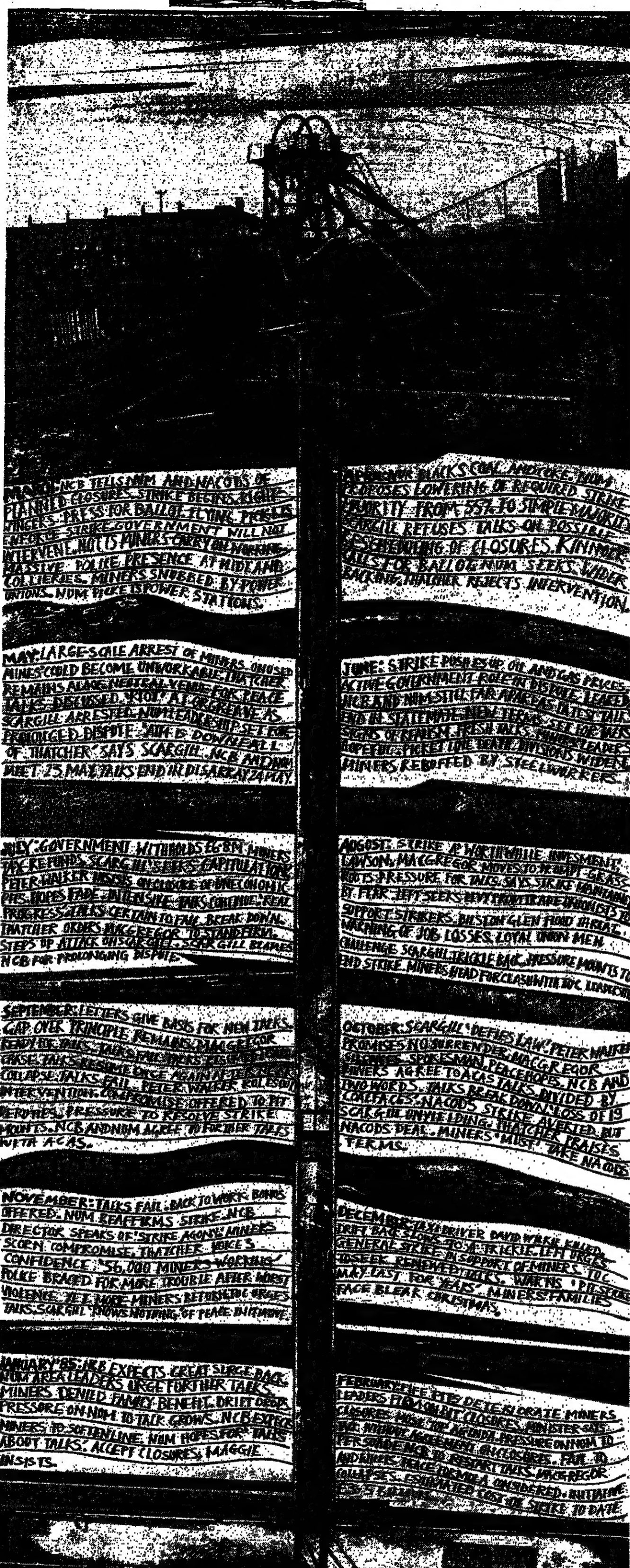
The body was identified last Friday when Mrs Odoemenam's sister arrived in Britain from Nigeria to look for her, and reported her missing.

that they had lost confidence in the Arts Council, and called for distribution of funds to be given to a new body. They are urging their board to pool their grant increases this year to help theatres, such as the Tricycle, which faced a 16 per cent cut.

A statement said: "All of us face the prospect of prolonged dark periods and staff redundancies."

The theatres, the Bush, Hampstead Theatre Club, Soho Poly, Theatre Royal Stratford East, Tricycle, Unicorn, Half Moon, Royal Court, Greenwich and Young Vic, hope to set aside £3,000 of the grant for a fighting fund to persuade the Government to make more arts funds available.

The artistic directors of 10 London theatres said yesterday



THE MINERS' STRIKE Britain's pit of bitterness

Tonight, one year into the strike, leading ITV current affairs teams come together to assess the effect on the coal industry, and the country, of twelve months of Britain's most bitter industrial struggle for a generation.

Against the background of a dispute which has set father against son and family against family, Jonathan Dimbleby reports and reflects

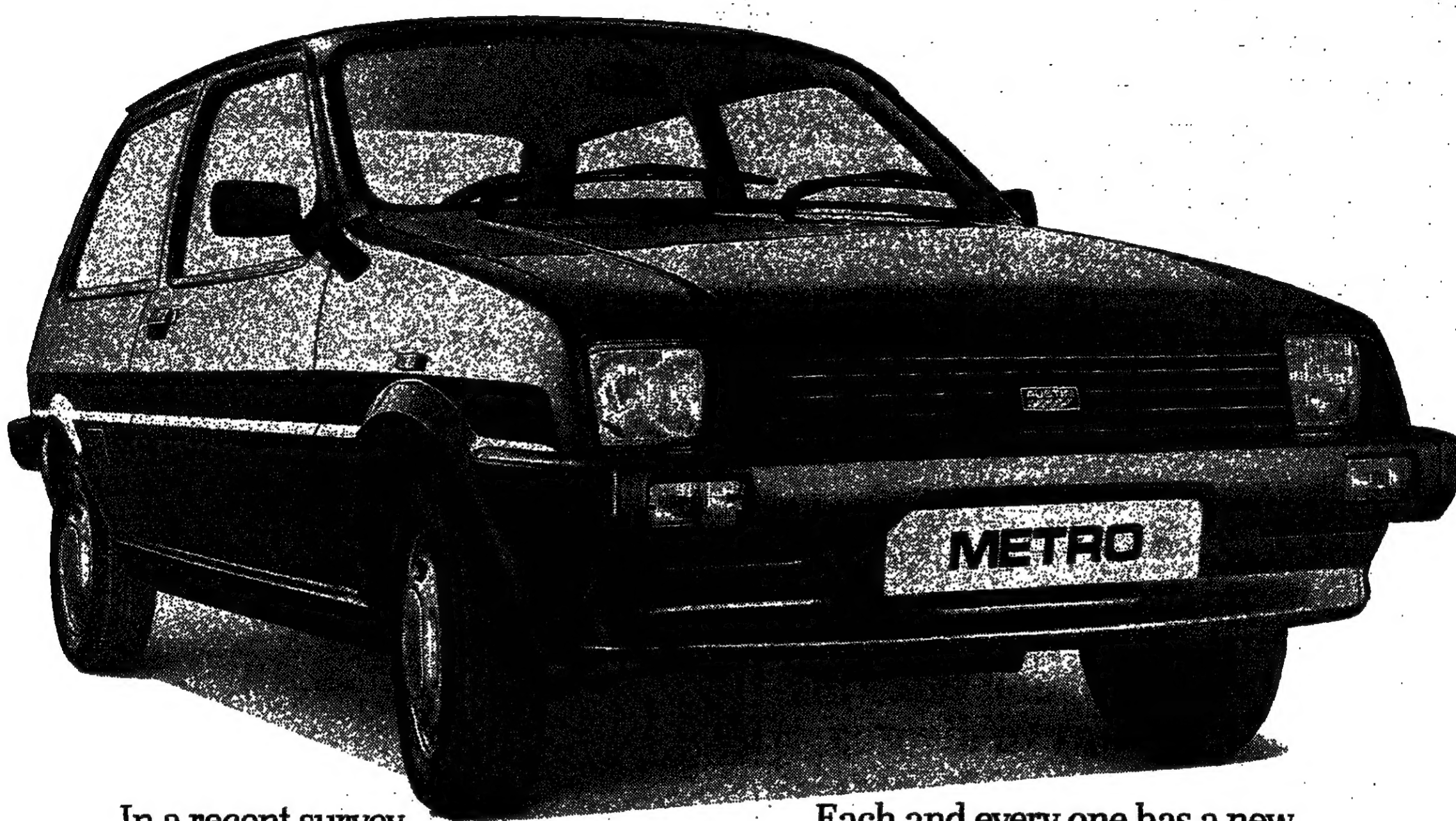
on the human dimension. ITV teams in Cardiff, Glasgow, Leeds, Newcastle and Birmingham seek to answer the question - what is the future of the industry now?

Brian Walden, with a team from *Weekend World* and a panel of leading politicians, reports on the effect of the strike on the nation and the lessons to be learned for the future.

TONIGHT AT 8-00-10-00 AND 10-30-11-15 ON ITV

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In a recent survey of 116 cars carried out by "Company Car Cost Calculator," the Metro City came through as the most economical to buy and run.¹

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From Austin Rover

¹ Leasecontracts - "Company Car Cost Calculator" & "What Car?" January 1985. Prices correct at time of going to press. Excl. number plates and delivery. DOT figures: Metro City simulated urban cycle 43.5 mpg/6.5 L per 100 km. Constant 56 mph 59.3 mpg/4.6 L per 100 km. Constant 75 mph 41.9 mpg/6.7 L per 100 km. Metro 1.0 HLE simulated urban cycle 48.1 mpg/5.9 L per 100 km. Constant 56 mph 67.6 mpg/4.2 L per 100 km. Constant 75 mph 46.4 mpg/6.1 L per 100 km.

Jelly 100 LSCA

Nicaragua woos US with arms freeze and cut in Cuban advisers

From Alan Tomlinson, Managua

Soviet press hits at 'hypocrisy'

Moscow (Reuter) - The Soviet Press yesterday stepped up its attack on US policies in Central America, accusing Washington of hypocrisy in declaring itself a champion of freedom while "drowning Nicaragua in blood".

Pravda said Washington was planning to frustrate a political settlement in the region while "tossing military manoeuvres" were being conducted close to Nicaragua.

part of the several hundred Cubans the Sandinistas say are training their Army, but only a small gesture if American estimates of several thousand advisers are accurate.

In the same Contadora context, Nicaragua declared an indefinite moratorium on the acquisition of new weapons systems, including the jet interceptor planes it requires to complete its air defence system. Fears that the Sandinistas might

get MIG fighters from the Soviet Union brought American warships to the Nicaraguan coast last November.

Scholar Ortega said that, in the face of allegations that his country threatened the security of the US, he was prepared to swear that US foreign power would be allowed to build an anti-American base on Nicaraguan territory.

To disprove "the false argument of the United States Government about the supposed militarization of Nicaragua", he invited a congressional delegation to come and evaluate for itself.

In an effort to eliminate arguments standing in the way of regional peace, he would "take immediate practical steps" to overcome the problem which prevented the last Contadora meeting taking place on February 14.

Señor Ortega referred to a row with Costa Rica over the continuing detention by Sandinista police of a Nicaraguan Army deserter arrested in December at the Costa Rican Embassy in Managua, where he had sought asylum.

He said the Nicaraguan initiative was motivated by the gravity of the regional situation which required the Government involved to show responsible, mature and flexible attitude.

Washington sticks to its tough rhetoric

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The Reagan Administration reacted aggressively to the Nicaraguan peace gesture yesterday, saying bluntly that there was nothing in its sending home 100 Cubans was "but a token".

The Administration drew on its standard anti-Sandinista rhetoric to emphasise its belief that the Managua government remains bent on exporting left-wing revolution to other countries of Central America, especially El Salvador. The blunt language further emphasized President Reagan's determination to sustain his psychological war against the Sandinistas.

The Administration is convinced that the Nicaraguan gesture has been timed to influence attempts by President Reagan to wrest \$14 million (£12.6m) from a reluctant Congress to finance the 14,000 strong anti-Sandinista guerrilla army, which operates principally out of Honduras.

Mr Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman emphasized that the administration "would welcome the opportunity for members of Congress with diverse views to go to Nicaragua for an open no-holds barred visit". He dismissed the "so called" peace initiative as a "show and tell" propaganda offensive.



In from the cold: Michael Troche, aged 2½, whose temperature was reduced to 60F, is welcomed by his mother, Mrs. James Troche, and his sister, Christina, as he emerges from the intensive care unit at Milwaukee Children's Hospital.

Kinnock will reaffirm commitment to Nato

From a Correspondent, Brussels

Mr Neil Kinnock will confirm the Labour Party's commitment to Nato and its equally strong commitment to non-nuclear policies to Lord Carrington, the Nato Secretary-General, on a visit to Belgium next Tuesday.

The Labour leader is expected to travel to Nato's military headquarters near Mons the following day to meet General Bernard Rogers, the Supreme Allied Commander Europe.

Nato sources say Mr Kinnock will be received courteously.

Tanaka taken to hospital after a slight stroke

Tokyo - Mr Kakuei Tanaka, the former Japanese Prime Minister, is in hospital after a slight stroke (David Watts reports).

His doctors say that he has some paralysis of the right side and a slight speech impediment, but they expect these can be reversed with treatment.

Craxi urges flexible approach to Russians

Rome (NYT) - The Italian Prime Minister, Signor Bettino Craxi, says the United States should give the Soviet Union guarantees on President Reagan's proposed missile-defence system so that arms negotiations in Geneva next month can move forward.

"We must declare from the very beginning the negotiability of this matter," Signor Craxi said in an interview on Monday.

He said that guarantees must be given on the system to overcome the preoccupations of the Russians. He did not specify what guarantees he thought would satisfy the Soviet Union.

"This dialogue, which has just reopened, should not stop at its birth," he said. Signor Craxi appeared to give less support to the American view of the missile defence than Britain or West Germany have. Mr Reagan has said he wants the United States to conduct research on a space-based defence against nuclear missiles regardless of the outcome of the arms talks in Geneva, which begins on March 12.

But on Wednesday a top aide to Signor Craxi, sensitive to the Prime Minister's use of the world's "negotiability," emphasized that the Italian leader was not ruling out the possibility that he would eventually take a position similar to that of Mrs Thatcher.

Callaghan's view, page 16

Demand for withdrawal to border

Israel agonizes over pullout timetable

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

In the face of mounting pressure for a speeded-up withdrawal from Lebanon, the crucial debate inside Israel's National Unity Government to agree on a timetable for stage two of the retreat began yesterday with a meeting of the inner Cabinet.

As the senior ministers talked, more than 40 angry reserve paratroopers who had recently returned from service in Lebanon demonstrated outside the Prime Minister's office demanding an immediate fall-back to the international border.

One protester, Mr Yossi Lessing, spoke of fear among the soldiers now based in Lebanon and claimed there was mass support among both officers and men there for a rapid evacuation. He claimed that the Government's plan for a three-stage withdrawal was not "the optimum decision".

According to political sources, a final vote on the timetable for stage two will be taken when the full Cabinet meets on Sunday. Only a minority of ministers are at present understood to back the idea of stages two and three being merged into one single pull-back to the border.

Although nothing was said publicly about yesterday's discussion, both Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Defence Minister, and Mr Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, are understood to favour sticking to the original broad timetable, which foresees Israeli troops remaining in parts of southern Lebanon until well into the summer.

Military sources said last night that it was possible that no deadline would be set for the conclusion of stage two - which

UNIFIL CONTINGENTS

Fiji	625
Finland	500
France	1490
Ghana	705
Irish Republic	730
Italy (helicopter unit)	48
Netherlands	165
Nepal	886
Norway	850
Sweden (medical unit)	180

involves disengaging from the line facing Syrian troops in the eastern sector - to increase the flexibility allowed to the army. They envisaged stage two being completed by early May at the latest.

"While some ministers have been pressing for a speeded-up withdrawal in reaction to the recent increase in guerrilla attacks against Israeli forces, there are others on the right wing who are now believed to be pressing for a permanent Israeli military presence to be maintained in a security belt between the border to the River Litani."

Under the terms of the original Cabinet decision and on the pull-out, the Cabinet will have to meet again separately to approve the timing of stage three. That decision is expected to be much more difficult to reach than that scheduled for Sunday, involving the second stage.

NEW YORK: A strong defence of United Nations peacekeeping operations in southern Lebanon has been issued by Señor Javier Perez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General, in the wake of Israeli claims that the French contingent in particular has taken obstructionist measures against the Israelis.

Señor Perez de Cuellar made it a point to praise the "steadfastness" of the French force when he paid tribute to the work of the UN troops in a report to members of the Security Council and to countries contributing troops, who had expressed concern at the growing number of incidents between the UN forces and the retreating Israeli troops.

Meanwhile, Lebanon yesterday took to the Council its complaint against the Israeli anti-Shia raids, as UN efforts were being made to get the two Governments back to the negotiating table at Naqoura so that the final phases of Israeli withdrawal could proceed in an uneventful and orderly fashion.

It was not clear whether Lebanon in initiating the council debate, would seek a formal censure of Israel.



After withdrawing Israeli troops from the Awali river on February 16, the Israeli cabinet will meet this weekend to discuss the scheduling for the second and third phases of the Israeli pullout from Southern Lebanon.

Troops set up another Lebanon front line

From Robert Fisk, Tyre

Hundreds of Israeli troops in armoured personnel carriers, tanks and trucks clogged the snow-covered mountain roads south of Jezzine yesterday as Israel established its third front line in Lebanon in preparation for a further withdrawal from the country.

Heavy lorries carried prefabricated buildings, stoves and watchtowers up the slippery mountain roads as the new line emerged, running in a string of military bases from behind the Christian town of Jezzine on the spine of the Barouk mountains down to the Litani river south of the ruined Crusader castle of Beaufort.

Yesterday morning, I watched several hundred Israeli soldiers struggling to keep their mile-long convoys on the roads as snow drifted down the valleys high above the Bekaa plain. Bulldozers and earth removing vehicles specially brought up from the Israeli frontier were gouging new roads and vehicle parks out of the rock and earth on the mountain tops.

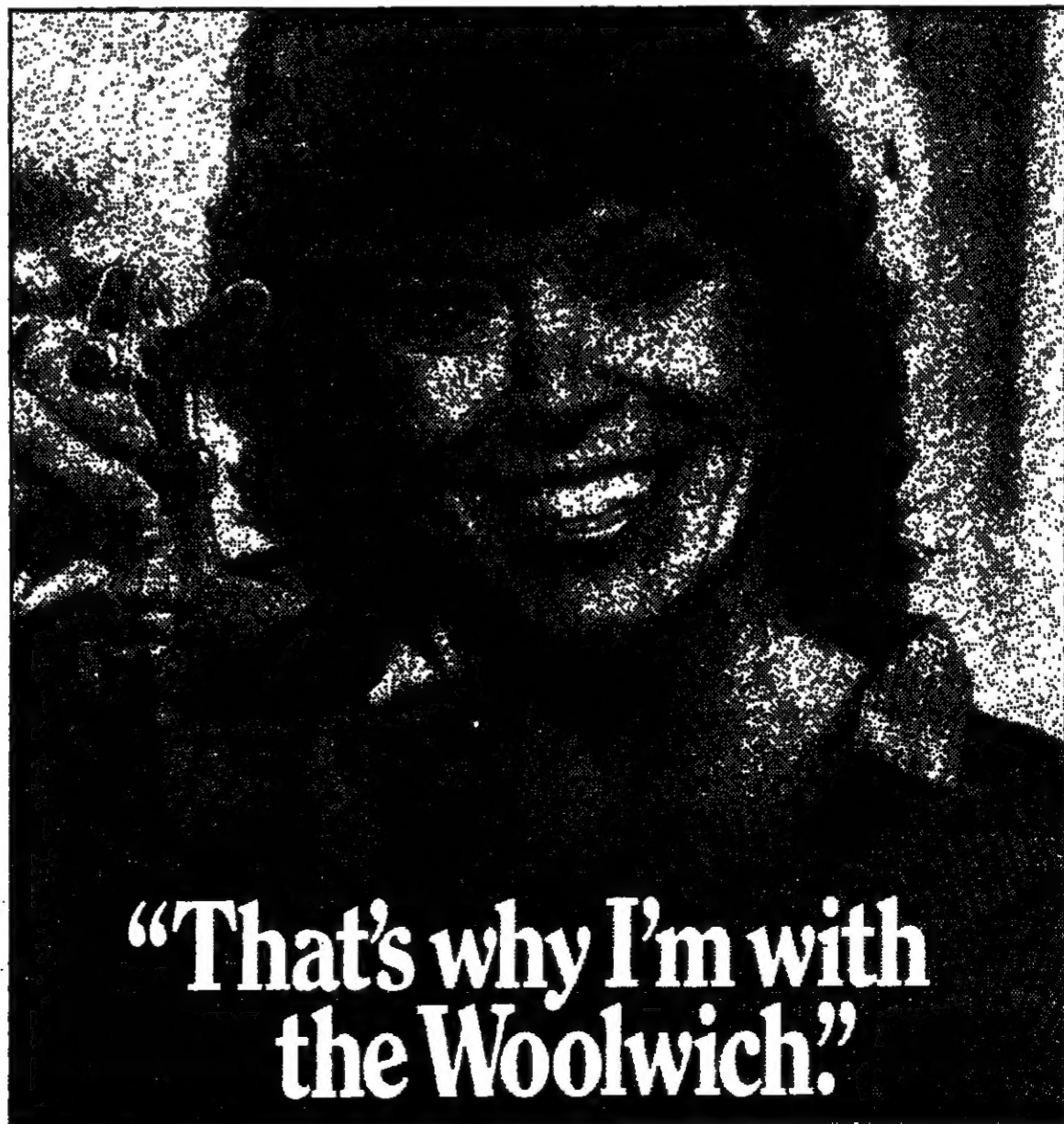
Further south, the Israelis

had cordoned off acres of hillsides and several small forests, ploughed the earth and hung placards on barbed wire around the areas saying in Hebrew, Arabic and English: "Danger - Mines". Some of the posters also carried a skull and crossbones. The minefields, if indeed explosives have been planted there, appear to be designed to prevent roadside ambushes and also to prevent guerrillas from firing rockets across the Israeli frontier.

If the Israelis are preparing to leave Lebanon altogether by this summer as they say, they are spending many millions of pounds in building this new line which will presumably contain Israel's last occupation zone in Lebanon. The line runs south of Nabatieh - a Shiite Muslim town where the Israelis have encountered daily ambushes - and across the Litani river near the Khardali bridge.

A whole series of new military roads is also being constructed between the Litani and the Israeli frontier, which itself suggests that the Israeli Army could be preparing for a longer stay than envisaged.

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Mubarak's Middle East initiative PLO puts brake on progress

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Prospects for President Mubarak's latest Middle East peace initiative appeared uncertain last night despite a positive response from Israel, which has accepted in principle the invitation to join Cairo talks with US, Egyptian and joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegations.

The Israeli reply - made in a speech by the Prime Minister, Mr Shimon Peres - was followed within hours by firm indications that the Palestine Liberation Organization was rejecting the suggestion first launched by Mr Mubarak in a New York Times interview.

Mr Muhammad Milhoun, a moderate member of the PLO executive and a deposed West Bank mayor, dismissed the Egyptian initiative as "a deviation" from the recent PLO-Jordanian accord. He said it would be unacceptable, even if the Palestinian part of the delegation was made up of PLO members - a demand rejected out of hand by Israel.

The reaction from Mr Milhoun, who lives in exile in Amman, has cast doubt on the willingness of prominent West Bank Palestinians to take part in any delegation, or indeed on the attitude which King Hussein of Jordan will adopt. Senior Israeli sources describe his reaction as long crucial to the initiative's future.

The fragmentation in the Arab world has overshadowed the difference inside Israel's National Unity Government, with the Labour Party adopting a much more enthusiastic stance than the right-wing Likud bloc. Any meaningful negotiations about the future of the West Bank would almost certainly bring the Israel Government down.

Late on Wednesday night, Mr Peres had briefly raised some hopes that a breakthrough might be imminent with his speedy acceptance of Mr Mubarak's invitation.

Mr Peres, praised by Mr

Mubarak for his flexibility, stipulated only one condition: no PLO members must be involved in the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. But privately some government sources have hinted that it would have been practically impossible to completely eliminate PLO supporters from the talks.

Speaking to an enthusiastic audience of British Jews, Mr Peres stated unequivocally: "The suggestion that the Jordanian delegation may be a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation is again acceptable to Israel. Palestinians, but not terrorists, but not the PLO. We invite people who are ready to use a microphone, but not a pistol; who are ready to talk, but not to shoot."

Yesterday the flurry of diplomatic exchanges between Jerusalem and Cairo continued when Mr Avraham Tami, director-general of the Israel Prime Minister's office, arrived

in Egypt bearing another personal message for President Mubarak from Mr Peres. It was believed to have formalized Israel's acceptance in principle.

Israeli officials are satisfied at the result so far of the Mubarak initiative. They claimed that the events of the past 48 hours had done much to unfreeze the so-called "Cold Peace" between Israel and Egypt, even if they eventually failed to advance the wider Middle East peace process. One outcome of this week's activity may be to increase greatly the chances of a Mubarak-Peres summit. Mr Peres has already invited the Egyptian leader for talks anywhere along their joint border.

The willingness of Israel to go along with the Mubarak plan has caused much anxiety among Jewish settlers in the occupied West Bank. They have threatened a spectacular reaction if there is any suggestion that negotiations about the territory are to begin with the Arabs.



Spanish greeting: The Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Andrei Gromyko, is welcomed in Madrid yesterday by the Spanish Prime Minister, Señor Felipe Gonzalez.

Spain heads off Gromyko plea

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Spain will not be taking any immediate position on the "Star Wars" aspect of the forthcoming Geneva arms talks, Señor Fernando Morán, the Foreign Minister, declared when he met Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, at the start of a 48-hour official visit.

Señor Morán, apparently preempting any repetition in Madrid of the appeal Mr Gromyko made to the Italians against the American research programme earlier in the week, said Spain intended to study the question.

Mr Gromyko lunched with

Señor Felipe Gonzalez, the Prime Minister. The Spanish Prime Minister left afterwards for Montevideo to attend today's inauguration of Uruguay's new civilian president.

Mr Gromyko's visit comes at a tempting moment for Moscow. Spain has still to settle its exact relations with Nato, and Señor Gonzalez has insisted, after revelations of "past" US contingency plans to stockpile nuclear depth charges at the Rota base, that Spain will not permit such arms on its soil while he remains Prime Minister.

General Vernon Walters,

President Reagan's special envoy, saw Señor Gonzalez and King Juan Carlos yesterday in an attempt to smooth Madrid's ruffled feathers after a series of incidents, which have strained relations with Washington.

These included the expulsion of two US diplomats accused of spying on the Prime Minister's office, and Washington's shaming the status of President Reagan's proposed visit to Madrid in May without consulting the Spaniards.

Señor Morán emphasized yesterday that the Russians would not try to take advantage of the strains.

Gibraltar link in car arson attacks

Gibraltar - Spanish police are investigating suspected arson attacks on three cars, one registered in Gibraltar and the others in Britain, at the border town of La Línea (Dominique Steele writes).

Similar attacks were reported on the night the Spanish lifted border restrictions last month. After the latest incident, on Wednesday night, bottles with traces of petrol were found near the gutted cars.

● HONG KONG: To the deafening noise of fire-crackers, British and Chinese officials yesterday celebrated the opening of a new vehicular crossing between Hong Kong and the mainland at the border village of Shaukiok (David Bogavia writes).

The opening, the result of a 1982 co-operation agreement between China and Hong Kong, will help supply the construction project for a nuclear power plant being built by the Chinese at Daya Bay, just over the border.

Drugs horror

New York (Reuters) - Three men were bound and shot in the head, and five other adults wounded when a gang broke into a Brooklyn home, apparently in a drug-related rampage. The intruders also attempted to strangle a child and drown an older brother who survived.

Soccer protest

Athens - Demonstrators against human rights abuses of the Greek minority in Albania booted Albania's national soccer team after it lost to Greece in a World Cup qualifying match here and harassed players and the Albanian Ambassador when they returned to the embassy.

Rajavi divorce

Auvers-sur-Oise, France (AP) - Mr Massoud Rajavi, the exiled Iranian guerrilla leader, has divorced the daughter of his former ally, deposed Iranian President Bani-Sadr, the Mujahedin Khalq guerrilla organization announced.

Pass the valium

Basle (Reuters) - Hoffmann-La Roche, the Swiss pharmaceutical giant, foresees that a "thin period" in its American business could lie ahead now that its US patent on the tranquilliser Valium, worth \$250 million a year in sales, has expired.

Mengele charge

Prague (Reuters) - Czechoslovakia's official Rude Pravo accused Washington of having obstructed the arrest of the Nazi war criminal Josef Mengele by suppressing information of his whereabouts in 1971.

Sahara talks

Paris (Reuters) - Algeria and Morocco have been holding secret talks to try to resolve the nine-year-old Western Sahara conflict, the Algerian news agency said.

Gale havoc

Jakarta (AFP) - More than 100,000 people have been left homeless after gale-force winds left a trail of destruction through the South Bandung region, about 150 miles southeast of here.

Cape oil find

Johannesburg (Reuters) - South Africa said it had struck oil off the Cape coast but expected the oil-bearing area would be limited.

Donkey clean-up

Nairobi (AP) - The district officer of the Indian Ocean town of Lamu of Kenya, appealed to local craftsmen to devise baskets, leather buckets or cloth nappies to be tied to donkeys to keep the streets clean.

Walesa disappoints activists

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

of Solidarity, addressed workers in the Gdansk shipyards yesterday and urged them to take part in a massive petition campaign pressing for the release of political prisoners rather than staging a protest strike against planned price rises.

The underground Solidarity leadership this week called off a 15-minute general strike scheduled for Thursday after the Polish Government decided not to introduce across-the-board increases of food prices.

Mr Walesa and the leadership said in a joint statement that the Government's decision was a response to the "efficient negotiations" for a strike by the opposition.

But many young Solidarity supporters were already braced for a protest and complained to Mr Walesa yesterday that the union was giving up ground for nothing. The Government has decided to suggest the price rises through the summer and has not abandoned the principle of the price rise.

There is some resistance in the shipyard and other workplaces against calling off such a beautifully prepared action, said the Solidarity chairman.

Mr Walesa tried to persuade the younger workers in the Lenin yards - birthplace of Solidarity in August, 1980 - that their energies should be channelled into sending thousands of letters and petitions to the Polish Parliament and to the Council of State, pressing for the release of political prisoners.

Diplomats estimate that there are now about 40 political prisoners in Poland, including 20 who were not freed under last July's amnesty. Some 2,000 out of 35,000 common criminals freed by the authorities have also been re-arrested.

"Many of the young workers - the middle-aged tend to agree with Lech - think that the postal action is too weak. It would cost a fortune, about 100 million zloties (about £64,000) in postage if the present plans are carried out, and in any case the Post Office would end up refusing to deliver the protests", explained informed sources in Gdansk.

Amnesty row faces new Uruguay President

From Douglas Tweedale, Montevideo

Uruguay's first elected President in nearly 12 years, Señor Julio Sanguinetti, takes office today in a ceremony that symbolizes the democratic revival sweeping South America.

Ten heads of state, six vice-presidents and dozens of foreign ministers will be attending the inauguration which is likely to turn into a mini-summit. President Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua will be a guest of honour.

Señor Sanguinetti, a moderate, takes office after more than 11 years of harsh military rule during which human rights groups estimate that one out of every 50 Uruguayans was

arrested and one of every 500 was tortured. Señor Sanguinetti faces a host of economic and political problems.

Left-wing opposition parties have proposed a blanket amnesty for approximately 280 political prisoners, ignoring a request from Señor Sanguinetti to wait for an official Bill.

The lower House of Parliament began debating the amnesty Bill yesterday.

On the economic front Señor Sanguinetti will have to cope with Uruguay's worst recession since the 1930s with 15 per cent unemployment and \$5 billion foreign debts to pay back.

Sensitive enough to put Norwegian security at risk.

Shortly after his arrest last year he confessed to having given the KGB classified information on a large scale. He withdrew his confession later.

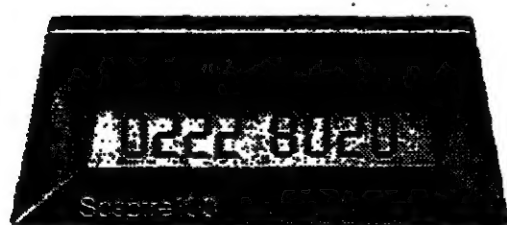
Mr Treholt said his motives for frequent meetings with Mr Gennadi Titov, his most important KGB contact, were "partly a kind of social curiosity".

For the first time during the trial, he admitted having handed over classified material to the KGB, although maintaining that the documents were not

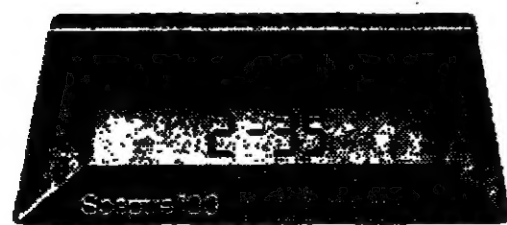
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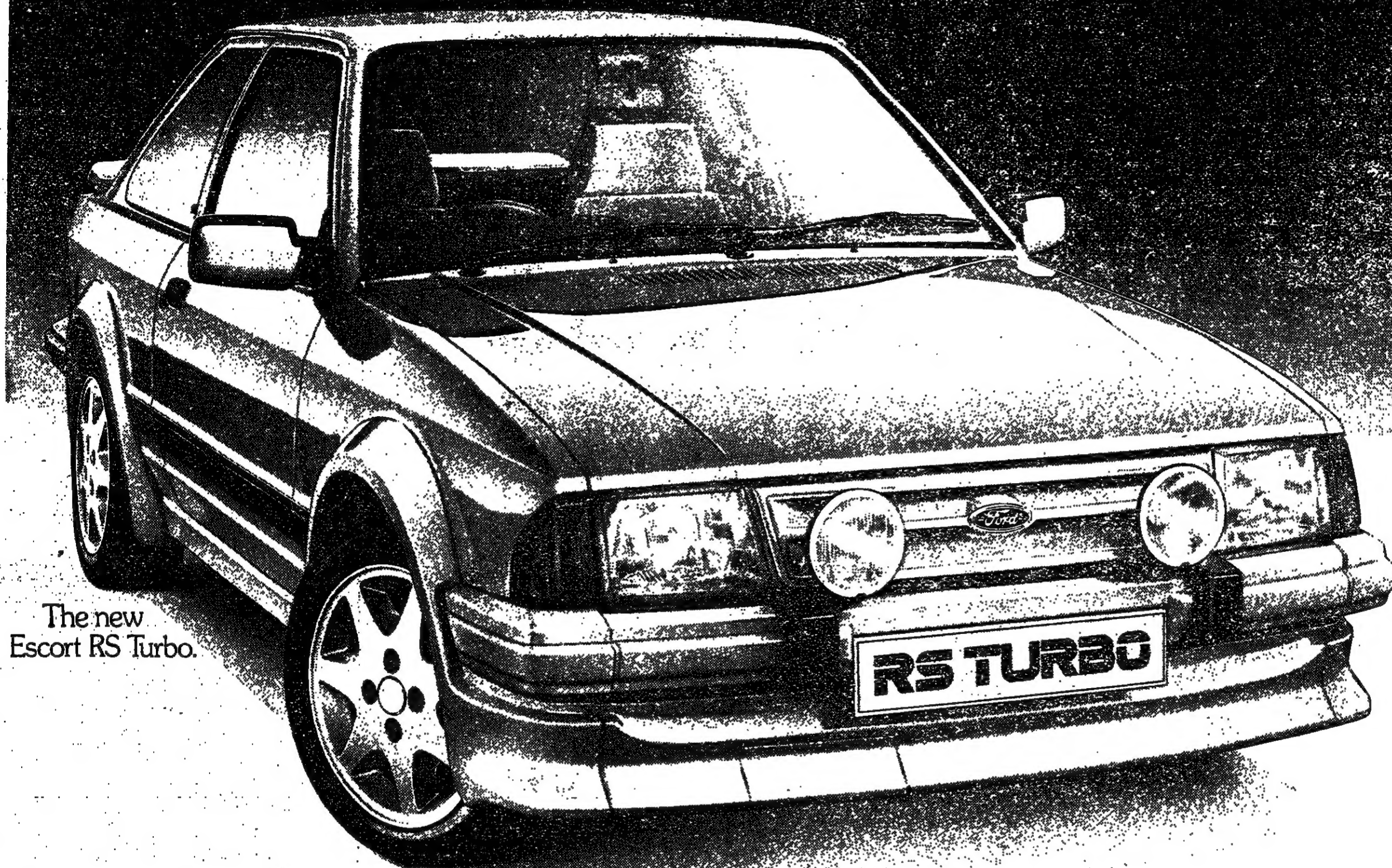
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It will only be available in limited numbers from specialist Rallye Sport dealers who, incidentally, have been investing in their franchise to ensure they offer the full range of RS back-up and service.

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Every car has a full 12 month Assurance. The option of an Extra Cover Warranty plan is also available to protect your investment for the 2nd and 3rd years.

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In fact you could say that one powerful reason for investing in a Ford leads to another. And you'd be right!

Ford cares about quality.



Lange laughs off fears of rift with Britain over anti-nuclear policy

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

The Soviet Union would never succeed in detaching his country from its Western allies. New Zealand's Prime Minister, Mr David Lange, said yesterday. Not even the United States had managed to do that.

"When the Soviet Ambassador called at my office last Friday I told him to mind his own business and to stop being a mischief maker," he told a London press conference.

He was speaking for the first time in Britain since being told by the United States that it was cutting down on defence co-operation with New Zealand, after his Government's refusal to allow American nuclear-capable warships into New Zealand ports.

Contrary to the first impression he gave in Los Angeles two days ago, Mr Lange seemed to be taking a philosophical, if not sanguine, approach to his quarrel with Washington.

Yes, there would be a morale problem in the armed forces, he admitted. An officer studying at a US military academy who was suddenly told he would not be replaced, or another who had spent his life specializing on the Czechoslovak order of battle and was told no more information would be forthcoming, would suffer a loss of morale.

But the tightening of the tap on the flow of intelligence from Washington was designed to embarrass New Zealand, not to weaken it, he said.

Mr Lange did not sound like a man who was embarrassed or had suffered a loss of morale. Nor did he sound in awe of his

confrontation next Monday with Mrs Margaret Thatcher, who has already clarified whose side she is on.

He admitted she had been as forthright with him in private as she had been in public on television, but scoffed at suggestions of a rift between this country and New Zealand.

"Look," he roared, "I left the hotel today, went down to the old places, had a bacon sandwich for breakfast with brown sauce, sat down and had a couple of cups of tea. Three of us had breakfast for £5.25. Where in the world could a New Zealander enjoy himself as much as that?"

"Relations between our two governments have never been better. There is a closeness in the relationship which we cannot really see loosening. We don't stand identically on everything. But we're long-time mates - and we seem to marry a lot of them!" (He has a British wife.)

He dismissed American fears that New Zealand's anti-nuclear stance could encourage European allies to reject US nuclear missiles. His country's policy had not even been reported to Australia 1,200 miles away, let alone to Europe 12,000 miles distant. It was just not a reasonable scenario.

New Zealand was different from West Europe because it had never been part of the nuclear alliance. Now it was telling the United States it did not want to join.

"We are not going to celebrate the start of a new wave

of arms talks by being the first to invite nuclear weapons into the South Pacific," he said.

Mr Lange, who sees the Queen today and will speak against nuclear weapons at the Oxford Union tonight, said of the American riposte: "If they really want to attack us they should cut off *Dallas* and *The A Team*, or the top 40 Country and Western.

● SYDNEY: Britain will continue arms sales to New Zealand, although the United States had curtailed defence co-operation with Wellington because of its anti-nuclear policies, the Minister for Defence Procurement, Mr Adam Butler, said yesterday (Reuters reports).

● CANBERRA: The Australian Prime Minister, Mr Bob Hawke, said yesterday he may call an emergency meeting of the Anzus nations to discuss the rift caused by New Zealand's ban on US nuclear-powered and nuclear-armed warships.

ANC man freed after pledge

Johannesburg (Reuters) - South Africa released Dennis Goldberg, a leader of the banned African National Congress, after more than 20 years in jail and allowed him to fly to Israel.

The state radio said Mr Goldberg, a white, was the first of eight ANC leaders convicted at a mass trial in 1964 to accept President Botha's offer of an amnesty if they renounced violence.



Long-time mates: Mr Lange meets the press after breakfast on a bacon sandwich

Reagan insists subsidies must go

Farmers pray for change of heart

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

America's farmbelt is in crisis. Intense political passions have been roused in the Midwest by President Reagan's decision to scrap or reduce the complex system of federal farm supports created under Roosevelt's New Deal, effectively casting most farmers to the vagaries of the open market.

Both Houses of Congress on Wednesday approved emergency credit relief for debt-ridden farmers facing bankruptcy on the eve of the spring planting season.

The 318-103 vote in the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives was no surprise, but the Administration was unexpectedly rebuffed by the Republican-controlled Senate, which voted successively 54 to 45 and 50 to 48. The votes represented a big defeat for President Reagan. The White House maintained its position yesterday that Mr Reagan would veto the "budget-busting" legislation.

In an exceptional outburst of political passion, hundreds of legislators and governors from 15 midwestern states - including the entire 105-member legislature of South Dakota -

barnstormed Congress this week in a vain attempt to change the Administration's mind.

President Reagan's long-term farm plan is savage. The proposals would end set minimum prices for base commodities, such as corn and wheat. They would cut dairy price-support rates, end guaranteed federal purchase of surplus milk, and phase out direct operating loans to farmers.

President Reagan remains resolute that farmers must bear their share of attempts to cut the federal deficit. He warned that farmers and their banks should not expect the taxpayers to bail them out.

About 14,000 farmers bowed their heads in silence on Wednesday in the farming town of Ames, Iowa, to pray for help to "open the callous hearts and minds" of the Administration.

In Washington members of Congress planted white crosses near the White House in a mock funeral on Wednesday to illustrate the plight of indebted farmers. Planting of crosses for failed farmers began in Wayne County, Iowa, and has spread across the Midwest.

Submarine reported lost

Washington (AP) - Soviet and North Korean ships are attempting to raise a North Korean submarine that sank in 330 ft of water, but US intelligence analysts believe the entire crew has perished, CBS News said on Wednesday night.

The network also reported that US and South Korean officials were concerned about the potential military threat posed by 37 US-made Hughes helicopters that were diverted illegally to North Korea.

Neither Japanese nor South Korean officials could confirm the report, but officials of the Japanese Defence Agency said they were investigating it.

Strikers try to ground Pan Am

New York (AP) - Transport union workers went on strike against Pan American World Airways throughout the United States early yesterday, saying they had enough support from other unions to ground most of the 400 daily flights.

International flights scheduled to arrive in the US yesterday would be handled, company officials said, but they were unable to say what would happen to later departures and arrivals.

A Pan Am spokesman in London said that the number of daily flights from Heathrow to the US were being reduced from seven to four. Reservations made on the cancelled flights were being transferred to those still scheduled.

Pan Am pilots have promised to honour picket lines set up by the TWU, which represents 5,800 mechanics, baggage handlers, flight dispatchers and food service workers.

The TWU has asked for a 14 per cent wage rise to recoup awards its members agreed to postpone in 1982. On Tuesday the company offered a 4 per cent increase in each of the next three years.

Pan Am has asked its 19,000 unionized employees for productivity gains and big reductions in pension and health-care benefits.

The airline had a pre-tax operating loss of \$106.7 million last year.

Bhutto party wins 38 seats in poll

From Hasan Akhtar Islamabad

Thirty-eight seats in Pakistan's National Assembly election were officially stated yesterday to have been won by former members of the Pakistan People's Party of the late Prime Minister Mr Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, although the party had directed supporters to boycott the polls.

They are thus the second largest group in a party less than a year after the Muslim League of the Pir of Pagara, whose supporters secured 42 out of 237 seats.

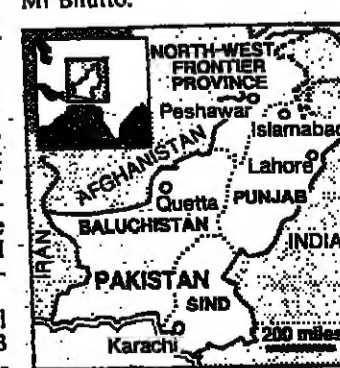
According to an official analysis of the elections which debarred political party-sponsored candidates, the heaviest defeat was suffered by the right-wing, politico-religious Jamaat-Islami, often described as the military Government's political wing. The Jamaat's 30 candidates won only nine seats.

Five of the nine federal ministers were defeated and 63 members of General Zia al-

Haq's Federal Council failed to get elected.

General Zia yesterday rejected suggestions that the defeat of his supporters was an expression of the people's lack of confidence in him.

Mr Ali Ahmad Talpur, the Defence Minister, blamed his defeat on opposition propaganda which had painted him as the jail executioner who hanged Mr Bhutto.



Peking imprisons three entertainers for spying

Peking (AP) - A Chinese court has sentenced three entertainers, including a member of the Army, to prison on charges of spying for Taiwan, recruiting anti-communist agents and inciting defections of Air Force pilots, the Government announced yesterday.

It was one of the biggest spy cases revealed by Peking in the 36-year-old political dispute between the Communist mainland and the capitalist island.

The Ministry of State Security, China's intelligence agency, said Xin Peiwen, aged 46, an entertainer in an army cultural troupe, was sentenced to 10 years for contacting Taiwan

through an unidentified friend who lived abroad and conveying a top-secret party document to the agents last March. The two others sentenced were Su Mao, aged 27, a musician in Peking's central ballet company, who was given seven years, and his uncle, Li Riang, aged 39, an actor in the capital's experimental opera troupe, who was given three years.

The statement did not explain when the three were arrested or tried, but said the sentences were handed down by the Peking Intermediate People's Court.

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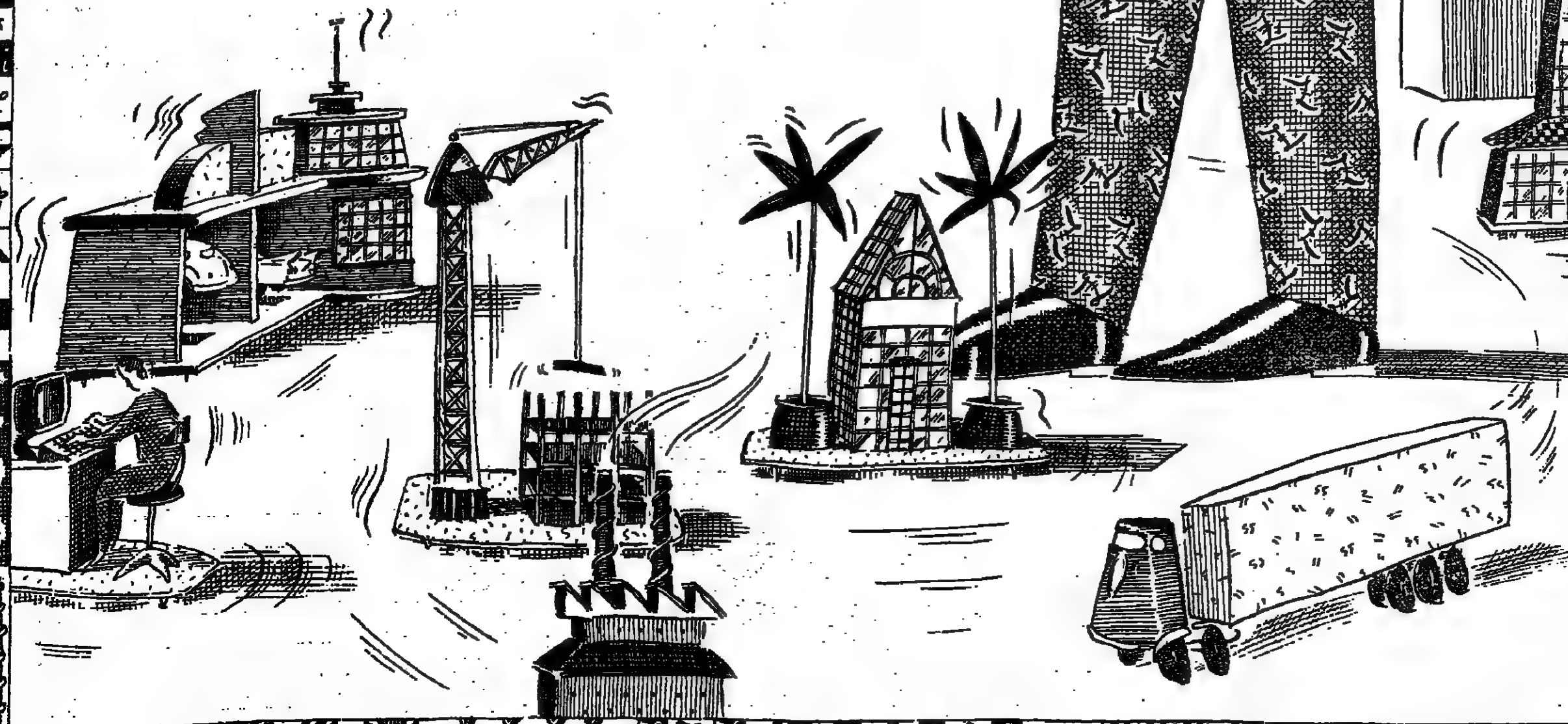
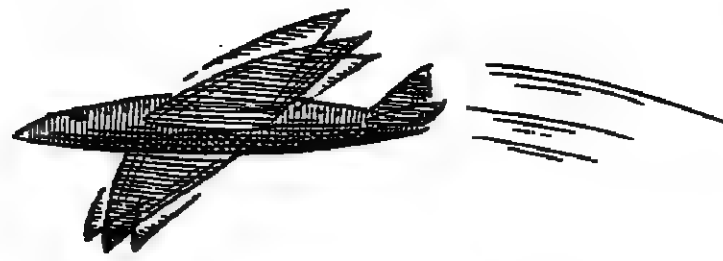
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India's upper castes rebel over special favours granted 'Untouchables'

From Michael Hamlyn
Delhi

The giant central state of Madhya Pradesh was paralysed yesterday by a general strike called by students protesting at proposals by the state Government to increase reserved places at colleges and in state jobs for the so-called backward castes.

In Gujarat, too, continuing agitation against similar plans by the Government there led yesterday to death and injury among bus passengers whose vehicles were set on fire.

It has long been an article of faith in the Indian Government that the Untouchables - those whom Mahatma Gandhi called Harijans or God's People - should be favoured by reverse discrimination to uplift their status and achievement. Indeed, the special position of both Harijans and tribespeople, the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, is elaborated in the country's Constitution.

But the upper castes, mostly the former priestly Brahmins or the warrior Kshatriyas, have finally, it seems, had enough. And it does seem that the reservation of places and jobs has got out of hand. A new spirit of illiberalism is abroad in India. The upper classes are revolting at the extent of favour shown to the lower.

Mr Arjun Singh, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, has brought forward proposals - which his enemies say are simply an election gimmick to garner votes in tomorrow's state election - which would increase the number of reserved places at state colleges to about 74 per cent - students claim the figure will be 78 per cent.

Bonn MPs face life barred from chocolate

Bonn - West German MPs adjusted as best they could yesterday to an apparently historic ruling by Herr Philip Jenninger, the Speaker, that "it is not usual to eat in Parliament". The Speaker had caught Herr Hans Appel, the former Social Democratic Minister of Defence, accepting a piece of chocolate offered across the aisle by a female Christian Democratic political opponent. Observers pointed out later that Adenauer used to receive chocolate from a female Christian Democratic MP (not the same one).

Falcon omen sealed fate of Mrs Gandhi

Delhi (AP) - Mrs Indira Gandhi suffered 24 bullet wounds on October 31 when she was fatally shot by two Sikh members of her security guards, according to the first government report on her injuries. Mrs Gandhi was hit on both sides of her chest, thigh, right shoulder and back. Another report said two of the alleged conspirators agreed that a falcon they had spotted on a tree last September had brought "a message from the 10th Guru of the Sikhs" to avenge the Indian Army assault on Amritsar's Golden Temple.

At present not only are there places held for students from the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, but also for former freedom fighters, ex-servicemen, those below the poverty line, and women. Now the Government is planning to add various named castes defined as backward and another 25 per cent of places will thus be occupied.

Under the present system, with only about 49 per cent of places reserved, the lowest mark that a student who had no reserved place needed to enter Maulana Azad College for Technology last year was said to be 80 per cent. The lowest mark that would gain entry to a reserved place was 32 per cent.

At Bhopal Polytechnic a general student needed 65 per cent to get a place. A reserved category candidate needed only 14 or 15 per cent. It is reported

in the Indian newspapers that the waiting list for the polytechnic had reserved category candidates on it with examination marks in single figures.

Students in the unreserved category are leading the agitation against the changes both in Madhya Pradesh and in Gujarat, where the Chief Minister, Mr Madhav Sinha Solanki, is proposing similar action, having waited more than a year since the report of a commission recommending the changes was presented.

The students, however, plainly have the backing of many of the people of both states, as is witnessed by the case with which they were able to shut the states down when they called for a strike. After clubbing 200 students three days ago when they tried to block the states railways, the Madhya Pradesh Government declared yesterday an official holiday, so that state offices would remain closed with or without a student ban.

The students are making some telling points. They ask Mr Arjun Singh why, for example, 78 per cent of the seats in the state legislature are not reserved for backward and other classes. They ask him how he would like to be treated by a doctor who passed out of medical school with only a 30 per cent mark.

The Chief Minister has agreed to meet student leaders on March 3, the day after the polls close in the local elections. Meanwhile, the Madhya Pradesh High Court has issued an order staying the imposition of the new 25 per cent reservation rule.

Princess Anne's tour gives boost to charity

From Our Correspondent
Delhi

Princess Anne flew out of Delhi yesterday having completed what officials called an extremely worthwhile tour of India.

Her visit has already encouraged the donation of money to the Save the Children Fund, a spokesman said. At least £50,000 has been promised from one source.

The Princess and all her entourage were sporting T-shirts bearing the slogan "The A-Team" as they boarded the British Airways scheduled flight back to London.

The Princess was completing the tour she began in October last year, which was cut short by Mrs Gandhi's assassination. Though successful, it was not without incident. There were a number of occasions which gave rise to security fears, as when the Princess first arrived in Calcutta to stay in a five-star hotel only to have the electricity supply cut by one of the city's notorious power failures.

When she met Mrs Sonia Gandhi, the wife of the Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in Delhi, her two Special Branch bodyguards were not allowed to accompany her into the residence at 1 Safdarjung Road, where Mrs Indira Gandhi had been killed. They were kept in the street during the meeting, which took an hour and 20 minutes instead of the scheduled 45 minutes.



Warm welcome: Princess Anne is given a scarf at the Chandragiri Tibetan refugee centre in Orissa which she visited during her tour of India which ended yesterday.

In Calcutta there had been an uneasy, rather noisy dispute between one of her detectives and a pair of Indian photographers he had grabbed literally by their collars in order to persuade them not to poke their cameras through a church window at the Princess, who was attending an Ash Wednesday service. The Princess was said to

have enjoyed particularly her visits to the training projects for the Child in Need Institute in Calcutta, and to the Arthik Samata Mandal complex in Vijayawada.

U-turn by Pretoria on black townships

From Michael Hornsby
Johannesburg

The South African Government's recent reversal of policy on African urbanization, which it had sought to discourage, reflect growing concern about the social and economic implications of the country's rapid population growth.

In the past 10 days the Government has abandoned plans to uproot the inhabitants of three established African townships near Cape Town and resettle them elsewhere, and has also said it is prepared to consider developing the Crossroads squatter camp near by into a permanent residential area.

These concessions have been widely depicted as panic reaction to the serious rioting in Crossroads last week, in which 18 people were killed and more

than 200 injured by police counter-action. The riots were caused by the squatters' fears they were about to be forcibly moved.

There is evidence, however, that while these particular decisions may have been dictated by expediency the Government is engaged in a fundamental re-think of its approach to African urbanization.

The Department of Health and Welfare's Chief Director of Population Development, Dr Boet Schoeman, announced this week the Government's full support for an ambitious 100-year plan to curb population growth by encouraging the rapid urbanization of blacks.

Government demographers estimate that the country's water resources can support a maximum population of 80

million, and that the current population of about 32 million would surpass that level by the year 2020 at the present rate of growth, and reach 138 million by the year 2040.

The aim is to stabilize the population at about the 80 million mark by the year 2100.

Dr Schoeman said the only really effective counter to a high total fertility rate (TFR), which is expressed in terms of children per woman, was to improve the standard of living, health and education of the fastest growing sectors of the population.

The aim of the plan was to bring TFR down to the replacement level of 2.1. Whites (15.4 per cent of the population) had already dropped below this level and were now at 2.08; Indians (2.8 per cent) were at 2.7; mixed-race Coloureds (9 per cent) at 3.4; and Africans (72.8 per cent) at 5.2.

Urban Africans, however, had a markedly lower TFR than those in rural areas. If rural Africans were removed from the calculation, the African TFR dropped to about the same level as that of the Coloureds. "It is clear that what we need to do is to urbanize blacks," Dr Schoeman said.

In an urban situation, he said, standards of living improved most rapidly, and that adequate education, health care, housing and employment were most likely to contribute to a falling fertility rate. Family planning was only part of the solution.

● TOLL RISES! The death toll in 10 days of scattered black rioting against apartheid climbed to 30 after a high-school student was run over and killed by a bus being stoned by an angry mob in Bloemfontein.

Fears grow for 8,000 missing Iraq Kurds

By Edward Mortimer

Eight thousand Kurdish prisoners have been missing in Iraq since 1983, and there are growing fears that they may have been massacred by the Baathist regime. They are members of the Barzani clan, to which Mullah Mustafa Barzani, the Kurdish nationalist leader, who died in 1979, belonged.

The Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) now led by two sons of Mullah Mustafa Barzani, is continuing the struggle for Kurdish autonomy in northern Iraq, with some support from Iran.

In July 1983 Iranian forces captured the border town of Haj Omran, in the Kurdish mountains. The Iraqi regime blamed this on the "treachery" of the Barzani, rounded up some 8,000 men of the clan and took them to Baghdad where, according to KDP sources, they were paraded through the streets as "Iranian prisoners" before being taken on to the holy cities of Karbala and Najaf.

At the same time, 37 members of the Barzani family who had remained loyal to the regime, including Mullah Mustafa's eldest son, Mr Ubaidullah Barzani, who had consistently taken the government side against his father, were arrested and accused of co-operating with Masoud and Idris. "From now on they are going to hell," President Saddam Hussein reportedly said on Iraqi television.

None of the arrested Barzanis have been heard of since, despite strenuous efforts by the KDP to discover their fate. The party took French and West German civilians working for the Iraqi Government as hostages, and asked their governments to find out what had happened to the missing Barzanis.

The French Government, after making inquiries, replied that "a large number" of them had been killed. It was not clear whether this referred to all 8,000 or to the 37 close relatives, but the French said the Iraqis had told them the group "no longer existed".

The West German Government discovered that the prisoners had been taken to special housing in the desert on the Jordanian and Saudi borders. But no one has been allowed into the areas.

It appears that they are not covered by the general amnesty for Iraqis "sought by the authorities" which was announced on February 13.

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As our sewers collapse and waterways silt up, David Walker explains why 'infrastructure' is today's political buzz word

When the concrete begins to crumble

What is infrastructure?

Water: pipes, sewers, drains, reservoirs, treatment plants
Transport: roads, railways, canals, bridges, airports, ports
Energy: North Sea oil and gas installations, coal mines, power plants

"It is vital for the future of Britain that the nation should have in place a modern and efficient infrastructure before revenues from North Sea oil and gas start to decline towards the end of the century. Their financial support offers a never-to-be-repeated opportunity to build a sound foundation for future prosperity."

That's the Confederation of British Industry on infrastructure. It could be Ted Heath, David Owen or Peter Shore: any of the engineering institutions, the builders' federations, trade unions: the National Economic Development Council or the Policy Studies Institute. They all want more investment on infrastructure.

Whether the purpose is to create jobs, regenerate the economy or simply to prevent sewers collapsing underfoot, a loud cross-party lobby has made infrastructure the political buzz word of the mid-1980s.

But what is it? Is the Kielder reservoir in Northumberland infrastructure? (£120m to supply more water than the householders of Newcastle and the industries of Middlesbrough could use between now and doomsday, so much water that the Northumbrian Water Authority has had to try to sell it to such parched regions as Qatar and Cornwall.)

And what is the planned 1,200 megawatt pressurized water reactor at Sizewell in Suffolk—a project that often seems to have few friends outside the Central Electricity Generating Board—but major investment in infrastructure? Stansted Airport development: there is an infrastructure project which even wet Tories (especially those with constituencies in Essex) are not keen on. Or the projected road link between the A1 and the M11 in East London—a type of infrastructure you will hear few London Labour MPs endorsing.

Infrastructure is glorious in the abstract, but on the ground the big investment projects have a nasty habit of either turning into white elephants or dropping several hundred cubic metres of concrete on to somebody's beloved stretch of Old England.

In an influential report on infrastructure published a year ago by the Institution of Civil Engineers (not wholly disinterested in construction contracts, it must be said), the concept was defined as "the basic framework for the well-being and productive development of a modern industrial society."

The engineers included everything from the proverbial sewers through to council houses, sports centres, Centre Point and the buildings housing the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology.

A less generous, and more manageable definition of basic infrastructure includes:
 • The bases of communications, that is roads, railway lines, cable television pipes and conduits for telephone wires;
 • The utilities of civilized life, from water treatment plants to drains and refuse incinerators; from North Sea oil rigs to electricity pylons.

The condition of Britain's basic infrastructure is hotly disputed, but its extent is remarkable. In the United Kingdom there were—when the water authorities last tried to count them—234,278 kilometres of public sewer. In England and Wales nearly 96 per cent of the population have lavatories connected to the sewers—a strikingly high figure compared with Continental Europe.

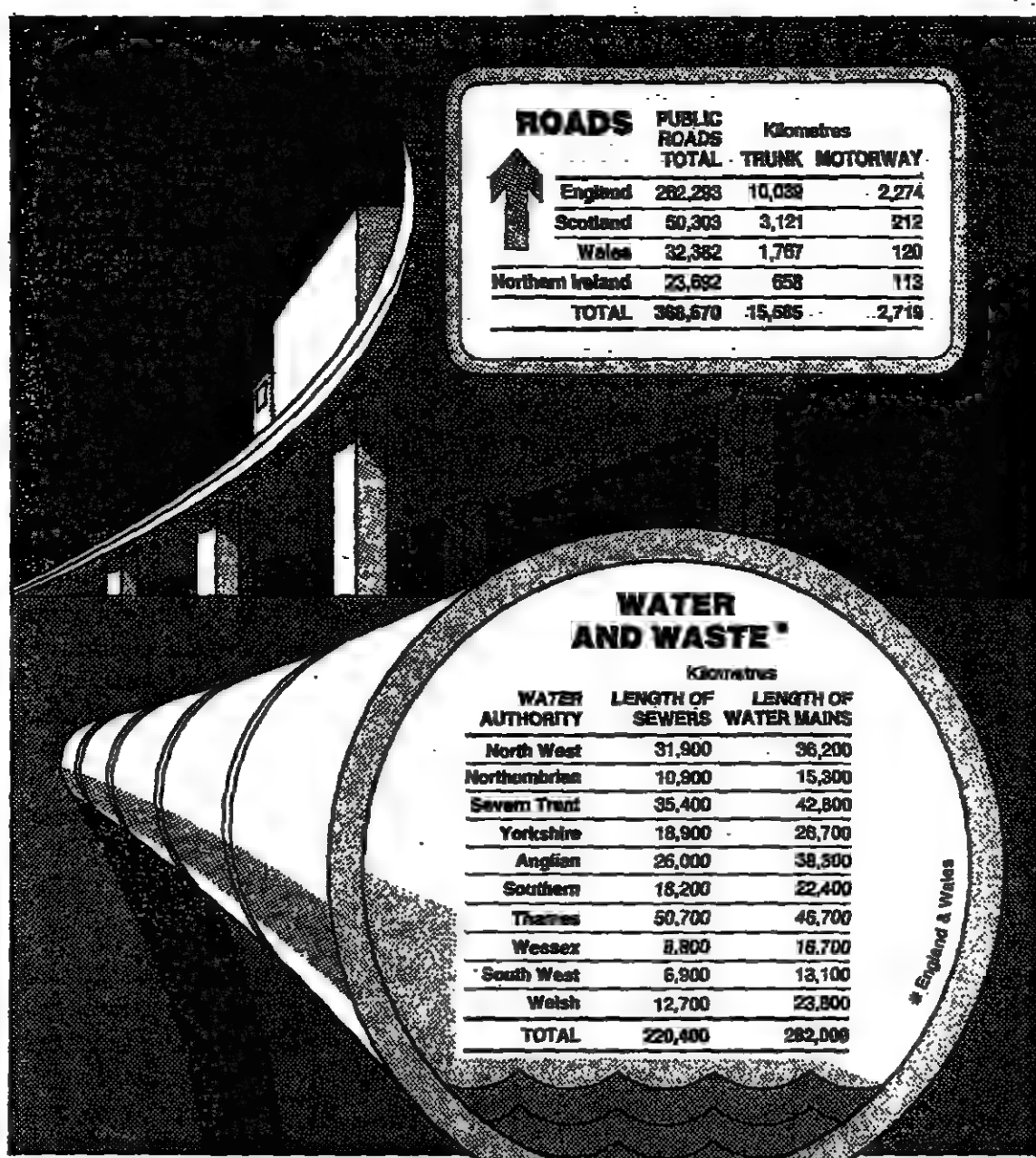
Water mains in the UK total around 320,000 kilometres, providing a public supply of the liquid to (in England and Wales) 99.2 per cent of the population.

The nation is gassed and electrified as well as watered. There are around 143,000 miles of gas mains in use in Great Britain. Across some 21,943 metal pylons and wooden poles, the Central Electricity Generating Board has strung 7.6 million route kilometres of high tension wires (and runs another 618,000 route kilometres underground). Electricity is supplied to users along a further 362,000 circuit kilometres of buried mains and 244,000 kilometres of overhead wires.

Some sense of the scale of the nation's transport infrastructure might be given by the calculation that if someone set off today in a car averaging a constant 45 mph, it would take them until midnight on September 26 to travel the length of the UK's public roadways—229,080 miles. In addition, there are still some 1,500 miles of canal and inland waterway and 11,000 route miles on the British Rail network.

Just taking underground infrastructure—water pipes and sewers, gas and electricity mains and telephone cables—a reputable estimate was made in 1978 that the replacement value of all these unseen assets would be around £50 billion, at least £85 billion today.

The protagonists of infrastructure



are not concerned with the scale of existing services but their adequacy—not so much the 230,000 kilometres of British sewers but the 5,300 annual collapses which require water board staff to dig holes in the road.

How can the adequacy of investment in infrastructure be measured? During the 1970s what economists call gross domestic fixed capital formation (investment in physical assets) declined from 19 to 15 per cent of gross domestic product. In the Thatcher years, while total public spending has remained high, public investment has shrunk, partly because the Government has found it easier to end construction projects than terminate employees' contracts.

Even so in 1983-84, 13 public sector corporations involved in providing the basic infrastructure were investing £6.7 billion (and the bulk of that was paid for directly by current gas, water and electricity consumers rather than by borrowing that would be paid for by future consumers).

Was it enough? That can only be answered by looking at specifics as there is no optimum national level for investment. The authors of the study *Rebuilding the Infrastructure*, published last October by the Policy Studies Institute, said that the need to build roads and repair pipes could only be assessed locally on a project

by project basis. Suddenly making sums available for infrastructure investment would be a waste of time since schemes would often a long time, for blueprints to be drawn up, crews to be collected and permissions to be given.

One specific that has seized the public imagination is sewers. Four years ago Manchester was being taken as the grim model of the country's future problems: traffic in the centre of Manchester was (and still is) being disrupted by collapses in its nineteenth-century sewerage system. For a time there was talk of Victorian nemesis: how the generation of the 1980s was failing to invest in the necessities of life in the way our Victorian forbears did.

Astronomical sums were produced as the cost of replacing underground services. One antidote to all this is unfortunately not open to the general public and consists of the Thames Water Authority's celebrated tour of London's rainwater-cum-sewerage system inherited from the Victorian engineer, Bazalgette. Whenever journalists are taken on the tour, the official guide stops in one of the six-foot diameter tunnels under Ludgate Circus to point out the Victorian brickwork, which is still in splendid condition despite having received the effluent of Fleet Street for all those years.

The other antidote has come from the water industry itself, in the shape

of a research and development programme dealing with the condition of sewers—some 95 per cent of which are not accessible to water authority staff. New techniques of remote-control observations and of in situ replacement of sewer walls have made the problem manageable.

In 1982 the National Water Council costed the sewer replacement programme at an extra £20 million a year rising to £100 million within five years. These are large sums and there is valid debate whether they ought to be found from borrowing or from increased water charges. But they do not add up to a quantum leap in water spending, nor—this is an important point for those who urge more investment to create work—do they necessarily create jobs. The new sewer technology of jacking, section units and close-circuit television make repair work less labour intensive.

Another specific set of infrastructure projects advocated by many involve motorway and trunk road building. In its recent report, *The Fabric of the Nation*, the CBI said: "British industry is at a disadvantage because of the inadequacies of the existing road system. There are still serious bottlenecks where motorways and dual carriageways end and become older, often winding two-way roads."

Certainly the British motorway map remains an odd figure of gaps

(between the M74 and the M6) and 'pockets of excess, as in Liverpool and Glasgow. But the most recent government White Paper claimed that on present plans (for which money is forthcoming) contracts for most of the remaining inter-urban motorways and the trunk road programme will have been let by the end of the decade.

And at that point an unpleasant fact becomes apparent: one person's high speed road link equals the demolition of another's house and the desecration of another's favourite beauty spot. Infrastructure can be controversial.

Ask the inhabitants of Naseby, in Northamptonshire, who stand in the path of the proposed A604/A1-M1 link. How many Tory suburbanites have looked at the CBI's list of projects, including a new south radial route linking the A3 and A20 across south London? Imagine the outcry over the likely route of a proposed Thame-Stevenage road or new Sheffield-Manchester route.

Infrastructure is a planner's

concept. It appeals to those who think you can sit in an office in London and draw up a prescription for a huge variety of local circumstances and conditions.

But there is a danger in a national formula answering some macro-economic model. Take the nation's bridges—an estimated 155,000 in the United Kingdom and an essential part of communications and transport. A national plan might, for example, decree the replacement or refurbishment of the bridges for road, rail, and water we have inherited, not only from the Victorians but from the Romans and the Romans too. There are 69,000 bridges made of brick and masonry built before 1922; but there is no general problem with these bridges. Some are crumbling, it is true, but that has to do with particular loads and stresses, not necessarily age. Some of the worst casualties are among the 52,000 bridges of reinforced concrete built after 1922. There can be no general assessment of how much investment in infrastructure is needed. On the ground there are only specific projects: leaky water mains here, new cable there, a debate about the amount of agricultural land needed for the desired A47 improvement.

And even when these debates are settled, there remains the question of who pays. How far is Manchester's infrastructure, which is crumbling, a just burden on all taxpayers? When should the bills for the cabling of Milton Keynes be presented?

The infrastructure, says the CBI, "was largely laid down by past generations for the needs of their times. We must ensure it is kept up-to-date and, where necessary, extended and improved to meet the needs of our times."

But the "we" is a congeries of public bodies and private companies, each with its own balance to make between charges and borrowing, present consumption and investment geared to the future. To impose some national scheme ordering new high levels of spending could be disastrous.

A word in weasel's clothing

Infrastructure is a 'weasel' word, as well as a term of economic and defence jargon. A weasel word is one that sounds impressive, but lacks the meaning of the sentence in which it appears. The origin of the metaphor can be found in *As You Like It*, where the melancholy Jacques urges Lord Amiens to carry on singing. "I can suck melancholy out of a song, as a weasel sucks eggs". Old Winston Churchill, majestic purist, attacked the obfuscatory, weasel nature of the term in the House of Commons in 1950. "In this Debate we have heard the usual jargon about 'the infrastructure' of a supra-national authority." In the weasel aspects today, infrastructure is often anti-modernist code calling for more government spending. A few years ago the vogue phrase was public investment.

Nevertheless, when used not unadvisedly, lightly, or wantonly, infrastructure is a perfectly useful term of jargon. As you can see it is derived from two Latin roots, *infra* and *structura*; what is underneath the structure. It was brought into language by the French railway system shortly before 1875, to denote fixed installations.

The useful shorthand word was adopted into English, and became widely fashionable in 1952, when it was taken up and extended by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Nato used it to distinguish "common infrastructure" fixed installations such as airfields, telecommunications, pipelines, and ports, which might be used by the forces of any ally, and were therefore financed by a central Nato fund, from "national infrastructure" barracks, training establishments, and so on, reserved for the use of the nation in whose territory they stood. Example from the *European Review* in 1951: "This new term 'infrastructure' denotes fixed military facilities."

Since then infrastructure has acquired a still more general meaning and become a vogue word. It is used to refer to the basic capital investment of a country or enterprise, with particular reference to developing countries. Example: "Assistance will be focused on Vihiga Division and will upgrade the infrastructure of roads and other social services." It has become so fashionable that it is often used as a vague slogan, such as "Fry me!" or "Fritter-my-wig!" where a shorter word like "base", "foundation", "root", or "substructure" would serve just as well. Example: "A very complex infrastructure of scores of vernacular languages."

Philip Howard

Tomorrow

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For animal liberation read terrorism



Imitation is surely the sincerest form of flattery, although not always the most commendable. Witness recent actions taken by animal rights activists which emulate the style and method of terrorist violence as practised by many revolutionary groups. Even the name of the Animal Liberation Front, the leading militant animal rights organization in Britain, invites overtones of political rationale frequently associated with subversive movements. We now know that something rather more sinister lies behind the supposed genuine interest in animal welfare: to these fanatics human beings are potentially expendable in the interests of their cause.

The Mars bars episode in November, 1984, shocked a nation that had known its fair share of politically-motivated violence within the year. That the threat proved to be a hoax did nothing to excuse or ameliorate the grave nature of the act or its underlying disregard for human rights.

It was not the first instance of this type of attack on consumer goods during 1984. Earlier examples included warnings to supermarkets about farm produce and claims of bleach contamination in shampoo and baby-oil. Christmas brought a spate of poisoned turkey threats in England which climaxed a busy year for the Animal Liberation Front. In late November it boasted over five hundred attacks in the previous five months on targets ranging from butcher shops to fish farms and medical laboratories.

A Front bulletin warned that members "may arm", ostensibly to protect themselves from retaliation. Such a development would represent a new dimension in the operation of "issue groups" in Britain and prompt police to consider seriously the establishment of a special squad

to counter the possible depredations. Actions in support of animals' well-being are not a novel departure in Britain, where various organizations have lobbied for years to improve the protective legislation first introduced in 1876. What is different is the rise of violent militancy. Over eight years animal rights activists have proceeded from simple protest to actions which verge on being a danger to human life.

They have shown themselves prepared to trespass, break-and-enter, damage and destroy property, engage in physical assault and deliver all-too-real death threats.

It is critical to an understanding of the animal rights movement to realize that the extremists are now actually indulging in acts of terrorism: that is, the systematically-applied threat or use of illegal force to achieve a particular goal.

Animal rights activists have expressed intent of pressuring the government to enact particular legislation. Despite claims to be non-violent, the Animal Liberation Front has steadfastly adhered to a policy of coercive intimidation, of which law-breaking has been an unavoidable consequence.

Little doubt exists about the fear engendered through claims of poisoned candy or other consumer products, through abusive and threatening telephone calls, the posting of letter-bombs, the destruction of property or the menacing slogans painted on walls. Such actions are acts of political terrorism; no less so than similar activities of the IRA, the PLO and the Red Brigades.

To suggest that one narrowly based minority could upset the political stability of Great Britain would be both alarmist and irresponsible.

Nonetheless, political violence must always be a source of concern in a liberal democracy. The true dangers are less obvious. One is the possible duplication of terrorist actions by other "cause" groups.

Coupled to the "copy-cat" prospect is the possibility that extremist behaviour might create anger and frustrations which could incite Draconian reaction. While sweeping legislative sanctions are unlikely, more probable is the birth of vigilante groups formed in opposition to extremists if the government provides insufficient protection. A recent example in the USA has been individuals banding together to prevent militant assaults on abortion clinics.

While not wishing to cry "wolf" the public must realize that these actions represent incipient terrorism. The dangers inherent within both the motivating philosophy and a possible

incautious reaction must be made clear.



Slow and ponderous as the parliamentary process may be, it is the very basis of our democratic society and it represents centuries of striving for freedom and human rights.

Only through the legitimately expressed grievances may changes be effected, not through violent confrontation. The outrageous behaviour of the extremist fringe of the animal rights movement must be recognized for what it is: political terrorism. And it should be treated accordingly.

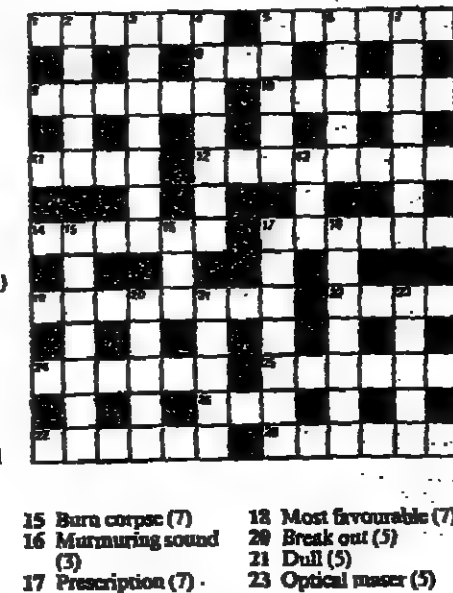
G. Davidson Smith

Senior Researcher at University of Aberdeen

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 583)

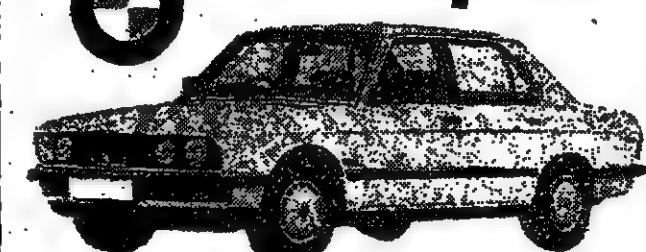
- ACROSS
- 1 Seal livestock (6)
 - 2 Parody (4,2)
 - 3 Woody seed (3)
 - 4 Leaped (6)
 - 5 Shred (6)
 - 6 Non-scientific subjects (4)
 - 7 Plan again (8)
 - 8 Hooked cutter (6)
 - 9 Cool (6)
 - 10 Recall (8)
 - 11 Esquaged (4)
 - 12 Sun's bright area (6)
 - 13 Paramount (6)
 - 14 Nothing (3)
 - 15 Appraised (6)
 - 16 Respect (6)

- DOWN
- 1 Higher (5)
 - 2 Goods passage (7)
 - 3 Change with blood (7)
 - 4 Sledge (5)
 - 5 Brief letters (5)
 - 6 Showing tenderness (7)
 - 7 Make mistake (3)
 - 8 Burn corpse (7)
 - 9 Mournful sound (3)
 - 10 Prescription (7)
 - 11 Most favourable (7)
 - 12 Break out (5)
 - 13 Dull (5)
 - 14 Optical master (5)



SOLUTION TO No 582
 ACROSS: 8 Gesticulation 9 Ova 10 Appreiser 11 Eject 13 Prairie
 16 Striped 19 Ticks 22 Redstart 24 Tau 25 Nonconformist
 DOWN: 1 Ignore 2 Estate 3 Didactic 4 Jump up 5 Salt 6 Rinser
 7 Untrue 12 Jet 14 Anguine 15 Lick 16 Sarong 17 Orient 18 Let off
 20 Cankra 21 Sanitary 23 Hoop

Win a 1985 car for a 1935 price



The Times with BMW offer you the chance to win a £10,825 4-door 2-litre, 6-cylinder BMW 520i for only £350. That was the price 50 years ago, when BMW first began to trade in Britain, of a 4-door, 2-litre, 6-cylinder saloon.

All you have to do is answer correctly the 12 questions published in The Times this week and return your completed entry form to the address below by Saturday, March 18. An entry form was published in The Times on Monday, and another will be published on Saturday, March 2. Each entry form must be accompanied by a donation of at least £1 for the BMW Golden Jubilee Appeal in aid of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

What you have to do—On the entry form are spaces for 12 answers. The 12 questions will be published in The Times. Two questions will be published each day this week. When you have completed all the answers on your entry form, send it to BMW, WITH A DONATION OF AT LEAST £1. All such donations will be sent to the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. You may complete as many entry forms as you wish.

TODAY'S QUESTIONS
 QUESTION 9: How many major international passenger airlines serve London? 20-29? 30-39? 40-49? 50 plus?
 QUESTION 10: Multiplying a certain measurement by 3.7854 converts it to another standard measurement. What are the two measurements?

THE RULES
 1. All entries must be accompanied by donation of at least £1 to The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.
 2. Answers to the questions must be written in BLOCK CAPITALS in the appropriate numbered boxes printed on the entry form.
 3. All entries must be returned to BMW by Saturday, March 18.
 4. Proof of posting will not be accepted as proof of receipt.
 5. In the event of dispute, the correct answers will be those chosen by the judges.
 6. Entries will only be accepted on entry forms obtained from an authorised BMW car dealer in Great Britain, or entry forms printed in The Times.
 7. The prize is the opportunity to purchase a new BMW 520i of standard UK specification (excluding tax) for £10,825 (or £350, No cash alternative is possible).
 8. The organisers are BMW (GB) Limited.
 9. No employee or close relative of BMW (GB) Limited, any franchised BMW dealer or Times Newspapers Ltd may enter this competition.
 10. No correspondence will be entered into.
 11. The decision of the judges on all matters is final.
 SEND entry form(s) and donation to 'Competition' BMW (GB) Limited, Elmfield Avenue, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 4TA. Further forms are available at any BMW car dealer.

Acting out his own horror story

Haing Ngor lived through the years of genocide in Cambodia. Now, Douglas Thompson reports, he may get an Oscar for re-enacting his suffering.

Although many veteran names are in the running for Oscars on the self-congratulatory, glittery evening of March 25 the close competition has meant even professional oddsmakers have had difficulty in predicting the most wide-open awards race in years. It appears a year of no clear sweeps and surprise outsiders.

Except for the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor, Sir Ralph Richardson is nominated posthumously for his dotty earl in *Greystoke: The Legend of Tarzan, Lord of the Jungle*. Adolph Caesar as the brutal sergeant in *A Soldier's Story*; Noriyuki 'Pat' Morita as the martial arts master in *Karate Kid*; John Malkovich in his film debut as a blind boarder in *Places in the Heart*; Dr Haing Ngor, also making his movie debut in *The Killing Fields*.

Dr Ngor has something on the others. An edge which makes him favourite to win. He lived the part he plays.

He ate carefully, savouring every bite of his poached salmon in the sumptuous surroundings of the Polo Lounge of the Beverly Hills Hotel. As he lifted cups of lemon tea with his right hand the little finger wasn't there to protrude. The Khmer Rouge hacked it off as a 'warning' before he became acquainted with Hell. In his grey suit and mismatched tie and gold-rimmed glasses he tried to give a passable impersonation of an actor playing part of his trade by promoting his latest film in the most famous of all Hollywood's restaurant-bars.

Despite seven other Oscar nominations for *The Killing Fields* the Cambodian refugee has become the 'star' of this harrowing account of the fall of Phnom Penh and 'his' grisly aftermath, the 'Asian Holocaust' in which three million perished. The moving told story of *New York Times* reporter Sydney Schanberg (Sam Waterston who is nominated as

Best Actor) and his Cambodian interpreter, Jack-of-all-deals and friend Dith Pran (Haing Ngor), during the Communist-backed revolution seems destined to take its place in film history.

Unsettling and compelling, the edge-of-the-seat material has won worldwide acclaim. It details the wild, irrational bloodlust - 'the running amuck' - of the Khmer Rouge as they take over Cambodia, the departure back to New York of Schanberg who wins a Pulitzer Prize for his reporting, but suffers the overwhelming guilt of leaving his friend behind. Dith Pran endures four years of malnutrition, forced labour, forced re-education, beatings and the minute-by-minute chance of execution.

By guile and silence he survives and escapes finally to Thailand, a reunion with Schanberg and a job as a photographer on the *New York Times*.

Haing Ngor brought more to the role than a natural talent and nationality - he also survived the four years that

'This was worse than Hitler. More cruel, more savage'

Dith Pran did but only by suffering the insufferable. He told the story in uneven English with painful pauses as he recounted his terror and agonies. He holds a French medical degree and was working in a military hospital in Phnom Penh the day the Khmer Rouge and their tanks roared into the city determined to destroy all things traditional and Western. 'I was in the operating room and they burn in and put a gun to my head. You commandant doctor?' they shouted at me. I

said: 'No, he just left by the back door.' That he saved my life. They turned away to capture him. I finished the operation. From then on you thought all the time: 'Maybe tomorrow I get killed. Who knows?'

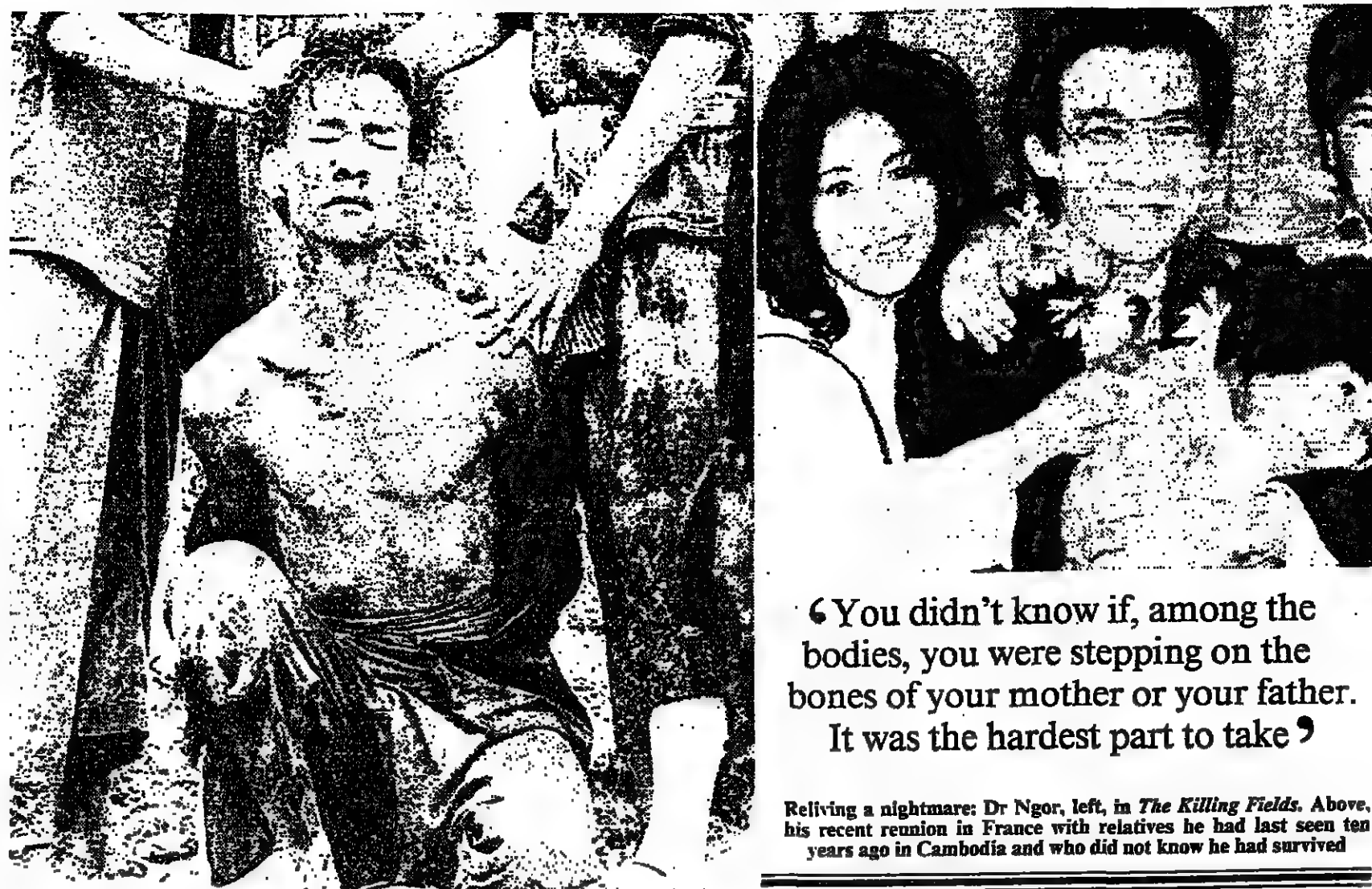
In the first day of terror it took him 24 hours to walk one mile from the hospital to his medical clinic where thirty wounded patients were waiting. 'You had to walk, stop, go very easy or get shot. We had no electricity, no water, nothing at the clinic. I was open all night and delivered a pregnant woman. The patients' families looked for water, for light. It was a very crazy time. They kill people like they would a small bird. Very easy.'

Haing Ngor shuddered at the memories of the casual slaughter and slashed his hand across his throat to show what happened to those the Khmer Rouge were suspicious of. He did it time and time again. 'Your skin is like rich people (slash). Oh, you wear glasses (slash). Oh, your nose is sharp (slash), you CIA (slash).'

'I was captured and condemned the first time because I called my girlfriend 'sweetheart'. The Communist changed the system. You had to call your wife or sweetheart 'Comrade Lady'. They catch me, cut my finger. 'That's the first lesson, next time don't do it.'

'The Khmer Rouge did a lot of crazy things. Ten more years it would take to tell you all the crazy things. The second time they hang me like Jesus Christ, tie me to a cross and set fire to the bottoms of my feet. Three nights, four days. 'You doctor, tell me the truth. If you tell the truth, I release you.'

'I maintained in my mind that if you tell the truth you will be 100 per cent dead but if you don't the same might happen but chances are 50-50. If I had told them I was a doctor they



'You didn't know if, among the bodies, you were stepping on the bones of your mother or your father. It was the hardest part to take'

Reliving a nightmare: Dr Ngor, left, in *The Killing Fields*. Above, his recent reunion in France with relatives he had last seen ten years ago in Cambodia and who did not know he had survived

would have killed me. They wanted rid of all intelligent people. I told them I was a taxi driver.

'You had to lie all the time. You had to be very careful. I'm thinking all the time, tomorrow I will die but I don't know where or when, but tomorrow I will die. They released me and showed me a bowl of rice and two pieces of fish. 'Tell me the truth, we'll give you food.' I said no. They hit me and put a plastic bag over my head and tied it. You shake and shake. Two minutes at most. Then you die. Not everybody survive. They keep the bag there too long. This time there are 15 prisoners all tied up. I'm around number 12. First one die. Then two. Then ten. I'm shaking and then he takes off bag and throws water over me. I still say I'm a taxi driver. I survive.'

'The third time I was captured they put me in a small room with 180 people. They had wooden stocks, four people each with one leg clamped in the stocks. Very tight. People all crushed together, the urine, the waste. Four nights, five days. The last night they set fire all the prisoners. Around 150 people hopped away. They shoot. About 20 or 30 get out of the fire step by step back to the jungle.'

Time and time again Haing Ngor says: 'The movie was not deep enough, not like my situation.' He often drops into French to get home his feelings and whispers: 'This was more than Hitler. More miserable than miserable, more cruel than cruel, more savage than savage. They made us work the land, plough the ground with our hands for twenty hours a day. To eat! They gave us rice - a cup smaller than this (demitasse) teacup. In 1976 I have snakes and lizards to eat. But in 1977 I plough daybreak to noon with one small mail to eat. I wouldn't even cook it.'

He and his sweetheart, Chang Howy, like thousands of others, were pushed deeper and deeper into the tropical forests to escape the Khmer Rouge. They starved under a plastic canopy. In *The Killing Fields* Dith Pran is seen picking up a lizard to eat. 'People wouldn't believe more but that was nothing. We had lizards, mice, scorpions, centipedes, snakes, grasshoppers - grasshoppers were the number one food I ate. I survive today because I ate scorpions and grasshoppers. During the Communist time we also had Man Soup. The kid killed the father because he needed the muscle to eat. The father was very sick and would have died in two hours anyway. So they made Man Soup.

'But you had to be careful. You could eat to live but the

Khmer Rouge could kill you any time. 'Why you eat Man Soup?' (slash). His sweetheart, whom he regarded as his wife, died in June 1978. 'We were living together in the jungle. My father and mother, two sisters-in-law, two brothers, couple of nephews and nieces and my mother-in-law were all killed by Khmer Rouge. Not shot. They didn't waste bullets. Beaten by hoes. 'My sweetheart died by starvation. She got sick and

'I prayed to God, the Buddha, that I would find food to eat'

there was no medicine. If you were a doctor and had no medicine, if you die in that situation and she die how painful you are. How you feeling? How painful. She saved my life and I couldn't save hers. She gave up her clothing for a couple of mice for me to eat. So all the scenes in the movie of the Cambodian communities, the people, not deep enough, not as real as it was. You couldn't show that. 'After she died I stayed in the

jungle but kept silent, no complain, don't say anything. You can go around but don't let the Khmer Rouge know. A small kid, eight or ten years old, a crazy little kid could inform on you.'

Surviving meant crawling for miles through paddy fields, searching for food and avoiding artillery fire from above and land mines below his feet. Also, as Dith Pran does in the film, there were moments of walking into the skeletal remains of the thousands who died in 'the killing fields'. He says that was in an eerie way the hardest part to take: 'You didn't know if you were stepping on your mother or your father. You didn't know. But you could have been.'

When he made his escape to Thailand there were thousands of other attempting the same thing: 'A lot of people died by mines. I pray to God, the Buddha, all the time, to live to find food to put in my stomach. I got into Bangkok in June, 1979. There was a camp of refugees on the Cambodia-Thailand border. As a doctor I took care of around 6,000 people in the camp, 40 or 50 patients a day. I worked doing that for the U.S. Embassy for 18 months. Then I got to come to the United States. A long, long time.'

Haing Ngor earns \$400 a week working at a refugee centre in Los Angeles. He cannot practice medicine as he has no US medical qualifications. Although fluent in nine languages he is taking night classes in English to change that this year.

For the Oscars he is living a movie-star life travelling by limousine around Hollywood. He accepted the role reluctantly after being spotted by David Puttnam's casting agent, Pat Golden, at a wedding party for Cambodian refugees. At 35 he looks at you with 100-year-old eyes. But, nevertheless, despite the horrors, he can laugh, especially at his 'film star' status. It is, he says, 'better than eating scorpions'.

'The Oscar. Well, I'm not a handsome movie star guy. Acting this was easy because of all the situations. I had lived through it. They were my feelings, my situations. It was my country. I spend four years in the Khmer Rouge School of Acting. If I get an Oscar, and Buddha wills, maybe it will help my country. Maybe that makes it important.'

But then he turns and looks with his old man's eyes: 'I will never forget a moment of it. And today there are still millions suffering. They still fight in my country. There has been enough for me of the fighting.'

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Taking insult from injury

There is a belief, widely held in both medical and legal circles, that people injured in accidents remain 'disabled' until their compensation is settled.

This notion of 'accident neurosis' started in the early sixties when a neurologist suggested that some victims of accidents deceived the Courts and exaggerated their injuries in order to increase their compensation. This view has appealed to many lawyers who have treated claims with scepticism. However, a detailed study of 35 people who were severely disabled following accidents, refutes this analysis of the neurosis. Drs Michael Tarsh

and Claire Royston examined and interviewed patients who were said to have accident neurosis - in as much as they complained of having severe physical problems even though there were no obvious physical reasons for their symptoms - between one and seven years after they received their compensation.

The researchers, writing in the *British Journal of Psychiatry*, discovered that long after the legal wranglings were completed the vast majority of patients were still unfit and, for the most part, either unable to work or not able to take back on the physical and emotional responsibilities they had before the illness. For whatever reason, many years after the compensation is settled, is a powerful argument against the view that many of these people are deliberately simulating their disabilities for financial gain.

Drinking to good health

One of the popular myths about taking a course of antibiotics is that you should not drink alcohol at the same time. Only one antibiotic, marketed as Flagyl - will make you ill if mixed with alcohol. You will come to no harm if you drink a little while taking any other sort.

Doctors who suggest you should abstain are either erring on the side of caution or exaggerating possible problems. If you are ill it is sensible to cut down your alcoholic consumption: alcohol will slow you down, perhaps reduce the absorption of the antibiotic, and delay your recovery.

If, however, you are prescribed antibiotics from the tetracycline group you will be advised not to take them with milk. The calcium in the milk will combine with the antibiotic,

make the drug inactive and prevent it being absorbed effectively.

The most common side-effects from antibiotics involve the stomach. Stomach upsets can be of two kinds: nausea and diarrhoea. The nausea and sick feeling is usually an immediate reaction to the drug. Antibiotics are sealed in capsules for a sound reason: they would taste vile in the mouth and quite often your stomach reacts in a comparable way once the capsule has dissolved.

The reason diarrhoea develops is quite different. Let's assume you take an antibiotic for a throat infection. If it's a 'broad spectrum' antibiotic it can attack a wide range of bacteria, knocking out those causing the infection but also killing off some of the bacteria in the lower bowel.

A number of different bacteria live in the bowel, all having a particular niche and co-existing quite happily. But as soon as one group is destroyed the balance tips, another crew takes over and you suffer the reaction and consequence - diarrhoea.

Penalties of childbirth

By the time they reach pensionable age almost twice as many women as men are incontinent. Why should this be? At St Mark's Hospital for diseases of the rectum and colon in London doctors believe the explanation is childbirth. They have discovered that during childbirth - especially if the delivery is troublesome - the nerves supplying the anal sphincter and the pelvic floor can be

damaged leaving the muscles functionally impaired. Although this rarely results immediately in incontinence, a vicious circle of bowel problems and more damage may develop, leading to incontinence later. Dr Michael Swash, consultant neurologist, says that because the muscles of the pelvic floor are weakened, women may be forced to strain to defecate, further stretching and damaging the nerve supply.

Surgeons at St Mark's have devised a repair operation - which they say can help 60-70 per cent of those with the affliction.

Painful truth

The controversial painkiller Distalgic has escaped Secretary of State Norman Fowler's blacklist of drugs no longer to be available on the NHS, although doctors will now be obliged to describe the drug by its generic constituents when writing a prescription.

The decision echoes the Committee on Safety of Medicine's view that although Distalgic (and its equivalent

Cosalgesic) can be extremely dangerous if taken in overdose or with alcohol, it is a useful painkiller and would be missed if banned.

In its latest *Current Problems* letter to doctors, the committee says Distalgic should continue to be available but goes further and asks doctors to take care when prescribing the drug.

Drugs like Distalgic contain two components, dextropropoxyphene and paracetamol. Dextropropoxyphene is now the commonest cause of drug-induced death reported.

Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser

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THE TIMES DIARY

Blinkered view

With the licence fee still undecided, the BBC is not going to rock the boat. Claudia Milne, joint producer of the banned 20/20 film on M15 phone tapping, tells me she made discreet and not unprompted approaches to a "very senior" current affairs executive and to a "senior member of management" at the BBC last Friday to offer them the film that Channel 4 cannot show. In both cases she left explicit messages with their secretaries saying who she was, what she was ringing, and leaving them a number on which to contact her. She has heard... nothing.

All-purpose

After a recent deluge of correspondence from pressure groups, the chairman of the House of Commons Secretaries and Assistants' Council, Jeanne Griffin-Smith, has devised a draft reply for MPs: "Thank you for your recent letter about occupational pensions and the rumoured changes in VAT on the limited list of drugs available on the NHS for badger embryos in Ethiopia."

Open and shut

Oxford undergraduates are learning to imitate the dirty tricks of their political elders. On Tuesday night members of the university's wet Tory Reform Group discovered a flimsy device planted on the window of a room at University College where they were holding a meeting. Paul Davidge, leading light of the right-wing Conservative faction, denies all knowledge, but the Conservative Association president, Nick Robinson, plans to report the incident to the Dean. It remains to be seen if the Dean will take as dim a view of the bug as the manner of its discovery. The matchbox-size device, complete with battery and aerial, was spotted when the budding politicians left the room, in time honoured fashion, through the window.

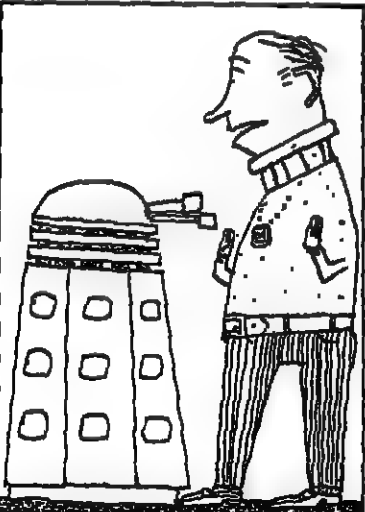
No kidding

Under-sixes in Hackney are suffering from discrimination. The council has just launched a competition in which seven- to sixteen-year-olds are being asked to paint a view of what Hackney would be like "if ratecapping is enforced". The council fears under-sixes have not grasped the complexities of the issue and so they are restricted in subject to a plain old view of Hackney. Already on the bandwagon is Aims of Industry. It is not attacking this blatant ageism, but claims the whole thing "corrupts the mind of young children".

Suction four

Improbable though it may be, both the General Belgrano and cows are covered by the Official Secrets Act. A chemist retired from the Agricultural Development and Advisory Service, wishing to supplement his pension, decided to write on matters bovine for his local paper in Wales. He called the article Infertility in Dairy and Suckler Cow Herds. In his covering letter to the editor, the former civil servant wrote: "I have cleared it with my former Head of Department as required under the Official Secrets Act." And quite right too.

BARRY FANTONI



"Dalek, you were wonderful"

One's company

In 1981 Labour's national executive produced guidelines saying that where possible, there should be more than one candidate in constituency elections. Strange, therefore, that Betty Boothroyd MP - who was on that executive - will tonight be re-elected "unopposed" at West Bromwich West. Miss Boothroyd does have her opponents. This year, as in 1981, a certain John Edwards and others were nominated to stand against her, but on both occasions the constituency's general election committee produced a shortlist of one. "A squalid manoeuvre," says Edwards, "a pioneering party." Counters Miss Boothroyd. "They have decided for themselves to have a shortlist of one."

Tory cure

Rush while stocks last: from April the government is to ban GPs from prescribing such brand name drugs on the NHS as Barker's Liquid of Life Solution; Male Gland Double Strength Tablets; Snufflabe Vapour Rub; Morning Glory Tablets; Cabdrivers' Linctus; Alpine Tea; Scott's Husky Biscuits; and Dr Williams' Pink Pills. On the banned list is Strychnine Mixture BPC and Quiet Life Tablets; no prices for guessing who would be best served by those little remedies.

PHS

When East and West enter into an arms control agreement the ability of each side to verify that the other is sticking to its undertakings is an important ingredient in creating mutual confidence. But as the Soviet Union and the United States prepare for negotiations in Geneva on March 12 they should consider that an unyielding demand for total verification on all occasions may prevent agreement which would otherwise be attainable.

I have always supported the need for verification, but I also suggest that negotiators should be ready to allow a variable percentage for trust in each other's intentions. This is not as naive as some may think, for if in the absence of agreement each side moves to develop increasingly complex and unverifiable weapons systems the present stumbling block to future arms control will become a self-fulfilling prophecy.

There is another danger no less imminent. Next September an international conference will meet in Geneva to review the progress of the 1970 treaty which controls the spread of nuclear weapons. In 1980 non-nuclear weapons countries warned that they were dissatisfied with the failure of the nuclear powers to make the progress towards nuclear disarmament which they had implicitly promised.

Since then many states not possessing nuclear weapons have made it clear that their continued adherence to the treaty may depend on just that progress. If further qualitative improvements in nuclear weapons impede verifiable arms control the very danger of nuclear proliferation will spiral. Already it is estimated that between 10 and 15 states could have nuclear weapons capability by the year 2000.

Is there an option which could facilitate the prevention of both vertical nuclear escalation and horizontal nuclear proliferation? I suggest there is if East and West are ready to constrain improvements in nuclear weapons while simultaneously demonstrating their recognition of contractual obligations.

Nuclear arms: put trust to the test

by James Callaghan

Since the partial test ban treaty was signed in 1963 the US, the Soviet Union and Britain have affirmed their commitment to securing a comprehensive test ban treaty. In 1975 and in 1980 at the first and second review conferences of the non-proliferation treaty the non-nuclear weapons states called for just such a ban. Considerable progress was made in the late 1970s, although by the time I left office the Pentagon had gone cool on the proposals while the Russians were making demands for a level of verification which I did not believe was necessary.

Subsequently the Americans also raised difficulties on verification; as a result the last five years have witnessed much rhetoric about the long-term goal of achieving a treaty, but little substance. In 1980 President Reagan suspended the Soviet-US-British negotiations and two years later announced their termination. Since then the Geneva conference on disarmament has investigated issues relating to technical means of verification but has been denied a mandate by the present US and British governments to conduct negotiations for a comprehensive test ban treaty.

Most of the participants now agree that they have carried that limited mandate as far as it will go - the logical next step is for treaty negotiations to open between the Americans, the Russians and the British.

The reopening of arms control talks between Moscow and Washington now offers a new opportunity, for verification is no longer a justifiable impediment. In 1977-79 the trilateral negotiations had reached an advanced stage in constructing a framework for a sound, verifiable ban including on-site inspection, the construction of automatic national seismic detection stations on British, US and Soviet territory and the international exchange of seismic data.

Over the past four years techniques for monitoring seismic waves have been developed which can detect clandestine underground tests involving explosions of as little as one kiloton - 149 kilotons less than the figure specified in the threshold test ban treaty and the peaceful nuclear explosion treaty.

Last week the Soviet Union further relaxed its position on foreign verification when it reached agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency providing for its inspection of Soviet nuclear power plants. If the Soviet, US or British interest in a comprehensive test ban treaty is only bluff, now is the time to call it - before the non-nuclear weapons states challenge us next September and before East and West move to a higher and less verifiable level of armaments.

There should be an early resumption of talks to settle the remaining outstanding issues so that a treaty can be concluded. Such a treaty

would not stop all improvements in nuclear warheads where these do not require tests involving nuclear explosions, but it would severely constrain the development of new designs; it would reinforce the link between nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation and would remove one argument from those who favour "Star Wars" on the grounds that technological advances in nuclear weapons will make future verifiable arms control unattainable.

In 1983 President Reagan asked every country which values a peaceful world to play its part in preventing the spread of nuclear weapons: in the same year the British government called on all nations seriously interested in a responsible approach to nuclear arms control to join the non-proliferation treaty.

They are right but they should have added that responsibility must be reciprocally shared by nuclear weapons states and non-nuclear weapons states alike. The world unfortunately may not be able to halt the further spread of nuclear weapons indefinitely but East and West, in their forthcoming talks at Geneva, can demonstrate their serious interest in arms control and it is in their interests that they should.

Nuclear escalation and nuclear proliferation are interdependent: should they remain unchecked both will make crisis management more difficult; should their further development encourage the deployment of strategic defences both may increase destabilization and endanger peace.

A comprehensive test ban treaty would be a small but essential and now, moreover, a realizable step towards increasing public confidence in the possibility of genuine multilateral disarmament. It is important that the principal negotiators should grasp an agreement if the world is to believe that the political will for such disarmament exists.

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The author, Labour MP for South Cardiff, was prime minister 1976-79.

Paul Valley, recently in Ethiopia, identifies one root of the present famine - the government's doctrinaire shackles on agriculture and marketing

The government men were lying in wait for the peasant farmers in the market place of the small town of Areka. The harvest of soft Ethiopian staple grain, had not been plentiful in the southern province of Sidamo but at least that meant, the peasants thought, that they would get a good price for what little surplus they had. They were reckoning without the fixed-price marketing strategy of Colonel Mengistu's revolutionary government.

There was almost a riot in Areka that day. The officials from the Agricultural Marketing Corporation waited until most of the peasants had brought their left into the dusty market place, and then made themselves known. They announced the official price they had decided on and told the farmers that the AMC would buy their entire stocks.

The price was ludicrously low. The peasants protested. Some even began to gather up their grain saying they would rather not sell at such a price. The AMC men then announced that no one would be allowed to withdraw his produce. The farmers began to shout and drag their grain away. The AMC men were jeered. Then the government heavies moved in and the peasants knew they had no choice but to comply.

The incident was far from isolated, and the AMC pricing system is not the only policy of the Ethiopian government which compounds the difficulties faced by a country where, according to independent estimates, 500,000 people have died in recent months and 8,000,000 more are at risk of dying from starvation.

It would be misleading to imply that all or even the bulk of responsibility for the Ethiopian famine could be laid at the door of inefficient and inappropriate socialist policies. Shortly before I left Ethiopia I flew over large tracts of the dedicated provinces of Tigré and Wollo. For hours the picture below was unchanging: plains which formerly were described as the breadbasket of the north were covered in a rolling mist of what was once fertile top soil; eddies of spiralling dust rose in whirlwinds hundreds of feet into the air; stony river beds at the bottom of gorges a thousand feet deep showed not a sign of water or new vegetation; and the grazing of land at the top of the plateaux which the dried out rivers dissected were as bald and brown as old felt.

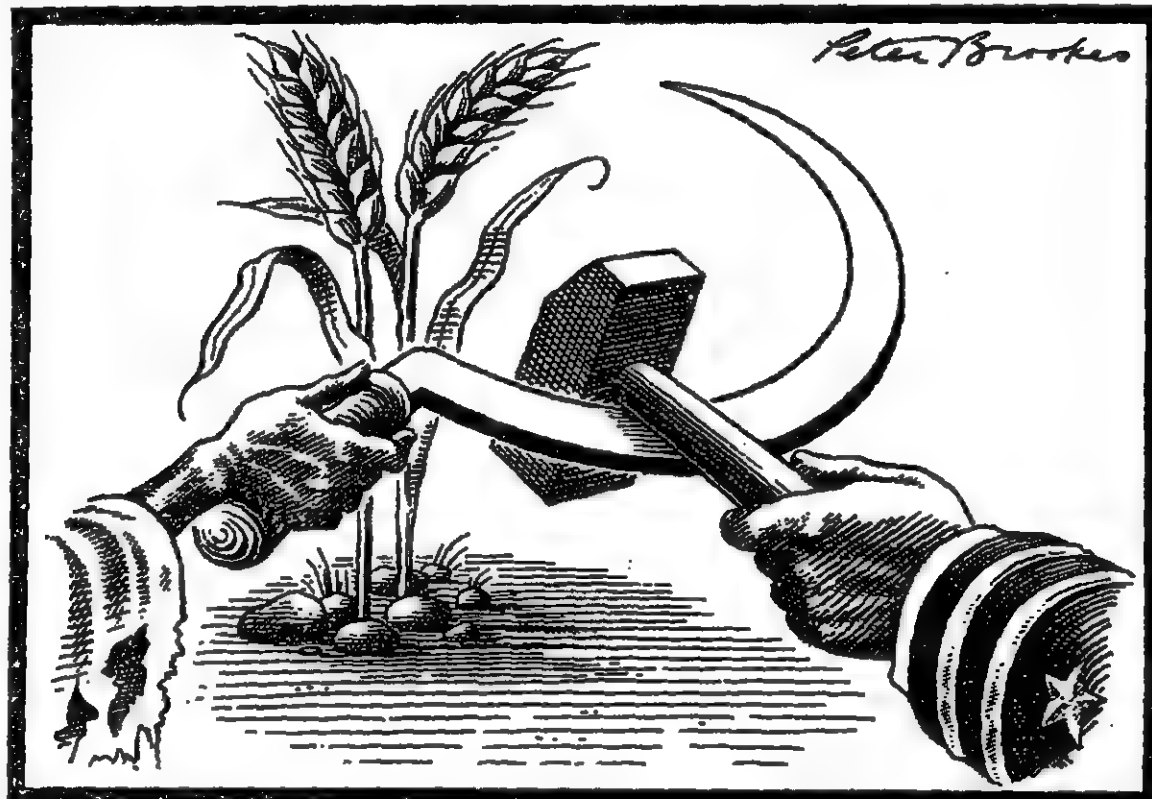
"There is no way that land like this can be made fertile in times of drought. If it does not rain then crops cannot be made to grow economically," an irrigation expert from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization told me. "Even if there was water at the bottom of those gorges it would cost a fortune to raise it: it would be cheaper just to buy crops for the people every year."

Relief shipments forced to wait until arms are unloaded

It would be a mistake to exaggerate Mengistu's military regime with the suggestion that there was much any government could have done to prevent a natural catastrophe on such a scale. But it would be equally mistaken to pretend that the Dergue's sense of priorities in its management of the country's resources would find acceptance in many of the donor countries, which the colonel criticized this week for sending insufficient aid.

Perhaps the most offensive example, to western sensibilities, of these distorted priorities is the amount which the military regime spends on arms as its people starve. International observers estimate that 46 per cent of the country's gross national product goes on the armed forces.

Certainly the regime is brazen in its demonstration that military hardware is more important than food aid. In the first week I was in Ethiopia two Soviet ships, the



How Mengistu hammers the peasants

Valentina Tereshkova and the Captain Modisvanyov, docked at the port of Assab, their cargo included 45 tanks, tons of artillery, small arms, ammunition and bombs. Despite a previous government undertaking that three berths would be available at all times for relief shipments, two other vessels, the Baltic Skou carrying 16,000 tonnes of bagged Australian wheat, and the Krin, carrying 24,500 tonnes of Canadian grain, whose arrival was scheduled well in advance, were forced to wait at anchor for several days until the arms were unloaded.

It is difficult to escape the conclusion that political factors also override humanitarian considerations in the government's policy to resettle 1.5 million peasants from the drought affected regions of Tigré and Wollo in the north and Sidamo in the south.

It is not that resettlement is a bad thing in itself - these areas are overpopulated and agriculturally exhausted, and a carefully prepared voluntary migration makes sense to many of the relief organizations. But the way the military regime is going about its current programme lends credence to suggestions from the Tigre People's Liberation Front that the government is taking advantage of the famine to rob the rebellion of its natural supporters.

For example, it withholds grain from refugee camps for weeks on end but provides two cooked meals a day at resettlement transit camps half a mile away; when this fails, families are split up and the men ordered at gunpoint into lorries and planes, even though provision for their resettlement at their destination is far from adequate.

Certainly the scheme has obvious advantage to the socialist planners. Until now many peasants have shown a marked reluctance to join in the government's latest reorganization of agriculture which attempts to induce peasant associations to band together in producer co-operatives in a three-stage plan offering increasing financial incentives. In one district I visited, Damot Wayde, in Sidamo, only 240 of the area's 5,000 farmers had volunteered to participate at even the first stage.

But resettlement will upset these

independent-minded farmers, well established in their individual holdings in the northern highlands and the Sidamo plateau, and replant them in an area of farmers co-operatives in the west where they will become more amenable to collective manipulation, much as the Russian peasants did under Stalin's collectivization of Soviet agriculture. That Stalin's stratagem produced few positive economic results but was a resounding success in terms of asserting control over politically recalcitrant peasants will cause few qualms to Colonel Mengistu's politburo.

Resettled farmers will be more amenable to manipulation

The Dergue's management of the agricultural economy is another sector of policy-making which, in particular, the capital, the government's political power base. The cities need some compensation for their 40 per cent unemployment. Cheap food is Mengistu's answer.

The AMC's basic fault is that it works from the top down rather than the bottom up. It begins by deciding how much food the country needs in a given year and then passes the instruction down through the system to the individual farmer, who will be told that the AMC requires, say, 50 kilos of sorghum, teff or coffee from him that year.

Nearer harvest time it tells him the price it will pay - sometimes not until he reaches the market place with his produce. The differential between the official price and what the farmer could get on the open market is often dramatic.

So demanding are the AMC's quotas that many farmers find that little or nothing remains for sale as a surplus on the open market. On some occasions the fixed price is actually lower than the cost of production. It is, as one agricultural economist put it, the most powerful disincentive imaginable to persuading farmers to do anything more than produce the minimum amount of grain they need to keep their families alive until the next harvest.

Thus, through wilful misdirection of resources, lack of imagination, rigidity of method, and the type of ideological obsession which puts policies before people, the cycle of subsistence in the Ethiopian highlands is maintained. It is a mode of existence in which there are no reserves and where otherwise tolerable climatic variations come to mean the difference between life and death.

the national land tax of around £40 a year, on average, which is a considerable percentage of the mean annual income of £150.

It is hardly surprising then that this year many peasants are defaulting. The result is that their draught oxen and cattle are rounded up into the kebele pound until they can come up with the money. If they cannot find it they are imprisoned. One agricultural aid worker in the south in a recent tour of 12 kebeles discovered that in three cases the entire kebele committee had been taken to jail because their members had been unable to pay taxes.

But it is in the price control policy of the Agricultural Marketing Corporation, which provoked the Areka market place drama, that lies the greatest disincentive to breaking the vicious circle of subsistence.

The system is designed to provide cheap food for the cities and, in particular, the capital, the government's political power base. The cities need some compensation for their 40 per cent unemployment. Cheap food is Mengistu's answer.

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When acts of God and natural disaster are set aside, that is the part of the Ethiopian tragedy for which Colonel Mengistu and his cohorts must take the blame.

David Watt

Only an act, but let's applaud

Many people seem to have been surprised as well as heartened by the elaborate display of mutual admiration which President Reagan and Mrs Thatcher put on for us in Washington last week. But watching these rituals on television my own mind went back to an almost identical love-in at the White House 20-odd years ago which I actually attended. On that occasion the host was Lyndon Johnson and the guest of honour was Harold Wilson.

Most of the same ceremonies were enacted, and exactly the same speeches were made. The president produced a historically dubious evocation of the age-long friendship between the great English-speaking peoples, liberally interlarded with references to the "special relationship", and ended with a resounding comparison between Wilson and Winston Churchill in which, one gathered, the former would have been awarded rather the higher rating of the two, had a seemingly pious not prevented the truth being told. The prime minister, who had smpered happily through his own extravaganza which managed to convey not merely an unbounded personal admiration for the forthright, genial figure in whose hands the destiny of the world now lay, but an unshakable conviction that the Johnson presidency represented the highest summit ever scaled by statesmanlike endeavour.

"Ah", you may say, "but that was different. The cynical exchange of high-flown insinuations between two of the most hard-boiled professional politicians of the twentieth century is not to be compared with the real meeting of true minds so conspicuously enjoyed by Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher."

Well, maybe so, but it would be unwise to place too much reliance on the idea. It is the business of government propaganda under the present regime, as under Wilson's, to describe Anglo-American relations as Downing Street thinks they ought to be and not necessarily as they are. Behind last week's chorus of official acclaim I can still hear warning echoes of the Wilson spokesmen assuring me with vibrant sincerity of the "real, instinctive understanding" that existed between their master and the "other great pragmatist", Johnson. It emerged afterwards, of course, that while the two men understood, and even appreciated, each other's political guile, they didn't actually agree. Johnson despised Wilson, Wilson distrusted Johnson and the officials who were spouting the line knew this to be so.

In Mrs Thatcher's case we may perhaps presume that at the personal level she likes Mr Reagan, since everyone else does, but there is by no means an equal certainty that with his easy-going male chauvinist ways he really likes aggressive feminine personalities. Even admiration for her as a character would be balanced by his evident conviction that all the European governments, including hers, are in an economic mess of their own making. Though the two of them are broadly united by a belief in homespun free-enterprise, the practical divergences between her monetarist orthodoxy and his crypto-Keynesianism are US, and did so, happily, without raising false expectations on either side.

moreover... Miles Kington

Psst, want to hear a secret?

Somebody very perceptive once wrote that there is at least one big difference between Americans and British: if there is a big leak in the US, everybody wants to know whether it's true, whereas with a British leak we just want to know who was responsible. The urge to cover up, and the anger against those who do not, are inbuilt in our culture, so much so that we dignify cover-ups with phrases like not letting the side down, not rocking the boat, not grasping on your master's hand.

The result of all this is that we tend to speak in two languages, one for public consumption and one for private communication, leading to all the mumbo-jumbo of official communiques and off-the-record briefings, the doubletalk of Lobby correspondents, the gap between what politicians say on the air and what they say in the drinks room afterwards. And it was in fact at the BBC that I came across one of the most curious examples of this that I have ever met.

Several years ago I was working in the radio archives at Broadcasting House. It was the day after the death of Charles Curran, the then Director-General, and I ventured to suggest that, from the tributes broadcast about him, he seemed to have been a very bland fellow. But a girl from another department, who had dropped in for some research, disagreed violently.

"I've heard him say some really vicious things about the BBC," she said, "attacking his colleagues violently and pointing out some really basic faults with the whole Corporation in no uncertain terms. Gosh, he really laid into them."

"No disrespect", I said, "but you don't seem quite senior enough to be privy to the DG's thoughts."

"I was only a technical assistant", she said. "It was at a recording session where Curran was taping his honest opinions on the BBC and everything."

"They should have broadcast that last night."

Thatcher and Reagan have been walking through a well-worn piece of theatre, just as Messrs Johnson and Wilson did. And the primary object of the act is not to impress the other principal lead but to influence the audience. All British prime ministers from 1940 onwards (with the notable exception of Mr Heath, who took a conscious decision not to go in for these histrionics) have gone to Washington with two broad purposes in mind - apart, that is, from any specific deals they may have wanted to conclude. One has been to restate to Congress and American public opinion Britain's claim to be America's senior ally; and the other, no less important, has been to cut a dash with the British electorate. Most post-war American presidents have been mildly embarrassed by this *empressment*, but it has not cost them much to indulge the British with their place in the sun while retaining their own freedom to conduct foreign policy in an entirely unimpaired fashion.

It was fashionable at one time - especially in the 1960s - to deplore this sentimentality and even to accept de Gaulle's highly self-serving suggestion that we were so hung up on the "special relationship" that we were bound to be bad Europeans. This line of attack, always rather puritanical and self-defeating, looks even more absurd now that we are so much weaker. We cannot afford to lose any opportunity or waste any means of exerting influence in Washington. If it helps to tell the Americans in 15 different ways that we love them and need them - which in general terms we do - then why not? Mrs Thatcher may seem to fastidious British tastes to have laid it on a bit thick, but her audience on Capitol Hill is not noted for fastidiousness. Her speech was in fact very well judged in that it said exactly what her audience wanted to hear without giving anything substantial away.

It is this last point, of course, that is the hinge of the argument. A climate of goodwill created by forceful repetition of the important principles on which we agree, will help the political management of disagreement and may even, at the margin, bend American decisions slightly in our favour. But if any British prime minister believes that the "special relationship" exists in the sense that Britain exerts a veto over any single US act or after the general direction of American policy, then he or she is deluded - and if, in pursuit of this mirage, inclined to overlook important British interests, dangerously so.

For this reason, if Lord Stockton or Lord Wilson ever really regarded the "special" American connection as more valuable than a satisfactory relationship with Europe, they were wrong - and Mrs Thatcher would be doubly so because the intervening years have only proved the point. She seems very well aware of the realities, and if the Falklands experience may have caused her momentarily to waver, the Grenada affair and her sharp lesson on the exchange rate will have set her on the right track once more. As for her unashamedly hammy performance, it achieved - like Wilson's - the limited psychological ends that are possible: given the disparity of power between ourselves and the US, and did so, happily, without raising false expectations on either side.

top brass to record all their innermost thoughts so they've got it on record later when they really thought about things."

"Where does all this happen?" "Somewhere in the Midlands, I think. It was so hush-hush that I wasn't even told where we were, and I was sworn to secrecy never to talk about it."

"And nor you should", said one of the archive staff, who had been getting increasingly uneasy during the conversation, which ended abruptly there. I have met nobody since who cared to support or deny the story. I have only once tried to mention it in print, for a *Langham Diary* I was asked to write for *The Listener*. Curiously, the entire item about Curran was omitted from my *Diary* when it appeared.

The point about the episode - and I cannot see why she should have made it up - is that it could only take place in a society where doublethink was well entrenched. We British like to think of ourselves as bluff, honest, no-nonsense straight talkers. We can't understand why others should sometimes think of us as devious. And yet it is even built into our language, the way we say "it is by no means impossible that" for "it is likely that", or even "it isn't exactly warm today" instead of "it's cold", or indeed "Up to a point, Lord Copper", instead of "Up yours, Lord Copper".

I had a friend once who worked in the driving and vehicle licence centre at Swansea. You should see the inefficiency and waste of money there, he told me. You should write an article about it. I told him. I'd love to, he said, but I've signed the Official Secrets Act and I'd be hammered if I did.

The Official Secrets Act may once have worked to protect national security; it seems more and more to give legal backing to deviousness and doublethink, and there must be millions of people like my friend who now have a low opinion of it. And in the licence department you don't even get to record your thoughts for posterity.

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BUT, MINISTER

To exercise the lingering spirit of Ponting the head of the home Civil Service has this week uttered an encyclical. Bearing the mantle of apostolic authority handed down to him by those mandarins Warren Fisher and Edward Bridges, Sir Robert Armstrong has set out to remind his younger colleagues of some eternal verities. And so they are. Government cannot — other large organizations neither — function without the clearest lines of responsibility; in Whitehall they lead ever upwards through the permanent secretariat to ministers of the Crown. Government cannot function without the utmost confidence of ministers in their officials. Above all is confidence, at once a lubricant and a cement of the business of government, and owed by a Civil Servant not only while he serves but ever after.

Here is more than a restatement of Whitehall's tribal myths. Here is an appeal to potential backsliders carried away by Mr Ponting's courtroom oratory. Exercise your conscience, Sir Robert seems to be telling his flock, but surely the intellectual and moral resources of your superior officials are not so shallow that in a moment of doubt you cannot find one to take your part and to argue the toss with ministers. Mr Ponting's actions, Sir Robert says implicitly, represent a slander of his fellow Civil Servants; the actions, of at best, a maverick. Without a doubt such iteration of the collegiate spirit was needed and Sir Robert's message deserves to be pasted on all Whitehall noticeboards to be read and digested by officials high and low. But it cannot be the last word.

One glancing reference to the Official Secrets Act cannot be enough in a week when a former Civil Servant in an ultra sensitive position in counter-intelligence apparently reveals all, and yet, signals are sent from the Government saying there is to be no prosecution. In such cases there surely needs to be some sanction heavier than mere disavowal (which cannot apply in the case of Mr Maseiter). Section Two of the Official Secrets Act is old and tired and deserves a dishonourable discharge. When, therefore, is Sir Robert going to commission one of his bright young men to work out a new Civil Service act setting out certain gross abuses of confidence as offences? And with such an act will there be necessary complementary legislation providing for general revision of the categories of information deserving protection behind the criminal law?

Mrs Thatcher came to power six years ago and was returned to office in 1983 pledged to a radical alteration in the balance within Britain of State and Society, of the cost and extent of

government. What the impact of that ambition might be on the Civil Service we can, as yet, only dimly see — despite the efforts of Sir John Hoskyns and others to foment a debate about the nature of public service in a transforming Britain. But change is taking place in Whitehall. Painstakingly, often meeting the resistance of inert bureaucracy, there are officials redefining their work in terms of cost-effectiveness and managerial discipline. Only this week the first group of Whitehall's top managers was reaching the end of an innovative management course open equally to the private sector. To these civil servants, imbued with a managerial ethos, Sir Robert has little or nothing to say. On the "cultural revolution" needed to bounce Whitehall into the real world of the 1980s there is not a word.

Yet for the Civil Service of the 1980s some of the eternal verities are palpably inadequate. Mrs Thatcher's government has been beset — like governments before, only more acutely — with problems of presentation. To present — to sell — can require skills of imaginative advocacy, skills in short supply in the traditional upbringing of Whitehall's officialdom. Whitehall lore says that Civil Servants can only give a minister, a government, 95 per cent effort; the other five per cent has to be kept back to guarantee an elastic response to a government of differing political composition. But this formula is often unsatisfactory. It reduces the confidence of ministers who then reach out for overt political support. Should Whitehall evolve in the direction of committed cabinets insulating ministers from the crown servants exulting policy? The debate is lively — but does not appear yet to have echoed round Sir Robert's Cabinet Office fastness.

To Sir Robert, as for Sir Thomas Dugdale — the last minister to resign, 30 years ago, because of a failing by his Civil Servants — officials have no constitutional responsibility or role outside their minister. It is a neat doctrine, but is it a doctrine compatible with value for money in the public services; can it work when the Financial Management Initiative is working towards making Civil Servants responsible managers, given the discretion to and enjoined to operate social security offices, prisons and dockyards in the most efficient way possible? As a temporary statement of belief, a stopgap to rally Whitehall's faint-hearted after the excitement of the Ponting episode, Sir Robert's crack of the whip is welcome. But the future of effective public service depends on the production, as soon as possible, of a new code of conduct for officials capable of administering Britain in this era of social and economic change.

OFF THE FENCE

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's "state of the nation" address to the Bundestag on Wednesday displayed a vigour and a clarity which have not always been apparent in his government. He said a number of things which have long needed saying, and he said them well. For a start, he stated plainly that the people of West Germany have good reason to celebrate as well as to mourn on the fortieth anniversary of VE day in May. Their greatest regret must be that their compatriots in the East had a very different kind of "liberation" and are still living under a totalitarian dictatorship rather than a liberal democracy. He rightly reiterated that the German question is open, and that relations between West and East Germany cannot be like those between any other states.

West Germany's policy towards the East is "not about frontiers... not about sovereignty in the sense of the classical nation state", he said. It is about self-determination, human rights and popular sovereignty. And having established this admirable principle, he went on to address a question which has caused much damaging controversy: that of the Eastern frontier. The Federal Republic of Germany, he declared, has no territorial claim on Poland, nor will have in the future. The former German territories which are now part of Poland have become "Heimat" to a second generation of Poles. West Germany will "never put this in question".

Well said. But why on earth does this need to be emphasized more than a decade after the Federal Republic recognized the inviolability of Poland's frontiers in solemn treaty? Why has

the Chancellor allowed leading members of his own party and Government publicly to reopen the frontier question, thus reducing the country's Ostpolitik to partial disarray, and making a gift to Soviet propaganda? Why has he countenanced the extraordinary antics of the organization of Germans who formerly lived in Silesia — with their truly revanchist motto "Silesia remains ours" (though the motto has now been changed) — and an article in their government-subsidized news-sheet describing how the Bundeswehr might once again invade Poland?

The answers to these questions tell us more about the Chancellor's personal style of leadership than about West Germany's actual foreign policy. Dr Kohl seems to have a habit of allowing his ministers to make different and even contradictory statements, and then blithely asserting that they are all right. Moreover, like the provincial politician he originally was, he has sometimes paid more attention to sectarian loyalties — particularly those, like the Silesians, influential inside his own party — than to the national interest, more broadly conceived. It has long been apparent that the revived controversy about the frontiers was damaging the Federal Republic's standing abroad. But to make an unambiguous renunciation would be to invite criticism from inside his own party, not to mention his explosive Bavarian coalition partner, Franz Josef Strauss; and perhaps to risk losing votes. So, for a long time, the Chancellor prevaricated. Now at last he has got off the fence. The quicker he does so in future, the other issues of international importance, the more respect he will earn abroad.

Speaker's role above it all

From Mr Peter James

Sir, In your leading article yesterday (February 26) about the publication of Lord Tony's memoirs you rebuke the Speaker for revealing the bullying attempts, made in private, to influence his decisions in the Chair, and you justify your view by appealing to something called mystique. Of far greater constitutional importance is the independence of the Speaker, and Lord Tony's revelations of the contempt shown by Mr Foot, Mr Callaghan and others for that independence serve above all else to make a reputation of such bullying less likely.

That the urge to oppress lives on is indicated by your report today (February 27). Mr Foot is quoted as stating, "I suppose George might be covered by the Official Secrets Act. There is a better case against him than Ponting". I cannot imagine how the Speaker can be considered to be subject to that Act, but for Mr Foot, self-proclaimed champion of the House of Commons, to contemplate circumvention by the Crown of the Speaker's independence (an independence which is nothing less than an expression of the Speaker's role as servant of the House) offers the most forceful demonstration of why Lord Tony's memoirs are right and you, Sir, are wrong.

The principle to remember is enshrined in Speaker Lenthall's famous reply to King Charles I: "May it please Your Majesty, I have neither eyes to see nor tongue to speak in this place, but as the House is pleased to direct me, whose servant I am here".

Yours faithfully,

PETER JAMES,
18 Girdler's Road, W14,
February 27.

Late-night listener

From Mr P. Lawrence Atkins

Sir, On Monday, February 25, the House of Commons sat until a quarter past one in the morning. For the last half-hour of debate — an entertaining exchange between Mr Clement Freud and Mr William Waldegrave concerning the National Theatre — I was the only member of the British electorate present in the public gallery.

Do any other countries' legislatures face a similar degree of public apathy?

Yours faithfully,

P. LAWRENCE ATKINS,
23 Voltaire Road, Clapham, SW4,
February 26.

Setting free the buses

From Mr Reg Harman

Sir, Mr David Mitchell's letter (February 26) seeking to reassure Mrs Anne Angus (February 6) mentions the "substantial" savings made by Norfolk County Council in reducing revenue support, but it does not specify the results. Perhaps I can help with some figures, based on a large rural area of north-east Norfolk on which I have kept records for some years.

Between 1975 and 1981 journey sectors run by all operators in the area fell by 17 per cent, i.e., 2 per cent per annum (about the national average). This still involved Eastern Counties (the main National Bus Company operator) maintaining uneconomic routes at their own cost, and in 1982 they therefore requested increased support from Norfolk County Council, when this was refused, they cut services by 38 per cent.

In 1983 Norfolk County Council in turn requested Eastern Counties to prepare options for much reduced revenue support, aiming to fill gaps through expanding local independent services; this resulted in a further cut of 6 per cent in all services by 1984.

Thus between 1981 and 1984 an already thin set of routes was almost halved. Furthermore, because replacement local routes were often not linked in timing or fares with the remaining Eastern Counties trunk routes, travel opportunities were reduced even more. A good proportion of people in the area do not have cars, and taxis are virtually non-existent.

All this has resulted in much increased hardship, clearly identified by consultants TEST in their report for Friends of the Earth, *After the Bus*.

To my mind, debate about the effects of regulation and reduced subsidy is pointless: the Norfolk experience clearly shows they bring reductions in bus services and hence in simple ability for many people to get about. The real political issue is whether we need savings in public expenditure more than we need our rural buses.

Yours faithfully,
REG HARMAN,
67 The Avenue,
Bengeo, Hertford.

Funds for research

From the President of the Fellowship of Engineering

Sir, There has been considerable discussion recently in your columns and elsewhere of the funding of scientific and engineering research in the universities. I suggest that our prime concern should be to establish a proper balance of funding across the whole spectrum of activity from pure science at one end through applied science and technology to engineering at the other.

I use the term spectrum advisedly, as there is no hard and fast division between the various categories, and there is considerable interaction between them. Engineering has many roots in science, and this receives practical expression in the 20 per cent of its budget which I believe the Engineering Board of the Science and Engineering Research Council spends in non-engineering — mainly science — departments at universities.

This is not a one-way process,

Challenge to BBC excellence

From the Managing Director of Piccadilly Radio

Sir, In his feature (February 26) to justify a £65 television licence fee Alasdair Milne comments: "Only a bigoted partisan could conceivably claim all broadcasting virtue for the BBC". Yet in the same article he says he knows of no commercial radio programme that is better than those of the BBC.

Perhaps I might nudge Mr Milne's memory with one example. In last year's National Radio Awards (and Mr Milne makes much of the BBC's success in television awards) the corporation entered what was presumably their finest and yet failed to win in six categories, including that of best classical music programme. Against the massive resources of BBC Radios Three and Four, this award was won by Piccadilly Radio for its series "Mr Hall's Band".

Were it not for the risk of being labelled bigoted partisans I and my colleagues in independent radio would offer many more examples of programmes which are clearly better than those of the BBC.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN WALTERS,
Managing Director,
Piccadilly Radio,
127/131 The Piazza,
Piccadilly Plaza, Manchester,
February 26.

From the Reverend Martin Sheppard

Sir, In your continuing campaign against the BBC's application for a £65 licence (your leader, February 27) you mention and appear to support privatising sections of the "BBC monolith". You approve of those who claim are "beginning to see the possibility that the heart of the public service can be kept alive only if some of the extremities are financed by other means". Earlier you show that among the extremities you certainly mean local radio.

Might I suggest, however, that local radio, rather than being on the extremity of public service broadcasting, is at its heart? It is precisely in the field of local radio that the contrast between commercial and non-commercial broadcasting is at its greatest and sharpest. National television, on the other hand, shows no such contrast and it is becoming increasingly difficult to tell which television game, or chat show, or soap opera is on which side.

Twice the penalty

From Mr Robert Appleby

Sir, I cannot help wondering about the morality of the Coal Board deciding that men who had been prosecuted in the courts and sentenced should then have their services with the Coal Board terminated. This seems to me like a "double sentence" and, bearing in mind that the miner is a very special person in a local community, if he is deprived of his livelihood what else can he do?

I may say that during the 20 years that I was at the head of an international company this question constantly arose because we were subjected to the sort of petty pilfering that goes on in light engineering industries, and the morality of this question often arose. If a successful prosecution came out of this petty pilfering, on what basis could we think we could then impose a further sentence of discharging this person from our employment? I may say we never satisfactorily resolved the question, but in practice what we did was to re-employ any such people, and I do not remember a single case of them ever reverting to petty pilfering again.

This is not to say that what we did was right and what the Coal Board is doing is wrong; it is to ask on what moral basis a board of directors considers that it can impose what amounts to an additional sentence

Bombing of Dresden

From Professor S. J. Pitt

Sir, As a navigator of a Lancaster, which took part in the Dresden bombing on February 13, 1945, I must take issue with Dr Frankland's view (February 21) that the operation was a military necessity. I recall that at the briefing it was made clear that the city was full of refugees and that the aim was simply to destroy Dresden. It was one occasion on which I had doubts about the military necessity. It must by then have been clear that the German armies were collapsing in any case.

I suggest that because we had the strategic bomber force it had to be directed against some target and, at the time, anything would do. With hindsight, I do resent having one of our adventurous spirit exploited to perpetrate such a futile atrocity.

The blame must be laid on Sir Winston Churchill, who made it clear that it was his policy to reply in

Local BBC radio is truly broadcasting for the service of the public and reflects the great variety of interests and concerns of the listeners. It is on the local level that this works best and it is on this local level that the pressure of commercial advertising produces its crudest and least satisfactory results.

To imagine that local radio is at the extremities of public service broadcasting shows how dangerously far you have moved from the basic principle of broadcasting being a public service to that of it as providing an opportunity for commercial profit. Public service, in all areas of life, needs continual support to sustain it. It is at the local level that it is most needed and must be most strenuously defended.

Yours sincerely,
MARTIN SHEPPARD,
The Vicarage,
Church Street,
Shoreham-by-Sea,
Sussex,
February 27.

From Mr Christopher Hawes

Sir, In David Watt's otherwise thoughtful article (February 22) on the BBC it was at the least unparliamentary to refer to advertisers as "profiteers" and describe them as enemies of the BBC seeking competition to drive down rates.

Can it be so very wrong for advertisers to seek competition in the supply of television airtime when in all other fields active competition leads to better quality products and a better price for the public at large?

Programme quality on the BBC and ITV more likely to be adversely affected by the present feather-bedded insistence that we should tolerate a "media inflation rate" operating at a far higher level than the national rate than by a limited amount of advertising in such serious programmes as *The East Enders*.

If we can accept the role of advertising in the existence of a national quality press of which we are proud then advertising may yet play a role in funding BBC of which we can continue to be proud.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER HAWES,
Chairman,
Davidson Pearce Limited,
67 Brompton Road, SW3,
February 25.

on a man who has already been sentenced by the courts.

I have the honour to be, Sir, yours faithfully,
ROBERT APPLEBY,
Ridgewood House, Ridgeway,
Englefield Green, Surrey,
February 18.

From Mr C. W. Koenigsberger

Sir, Lord Wedderburn (February 23) gives two reasons for saying that the National Coal Board is under the legal obligation expressed as: "There can and must be negotiations now; round the table, directly. Boulwarism is not enough". First, because the board is by a statute required to enter into consultation with the NUM. The proposition that entry into negotiation means negotiation without end, regardless of the stand adopted by the NUM, is absurd.

Second, because the duty "to bargain in good faith", as established by the United States federal law, likewise imposes that obligation. Again the proposition that a duty to bargain in good faith continues without end, regardless of the behaviour of the other negotiating party, is nonsense.

The decision of the Government and NCB not to negotiate any further is sound in law and politically sensible.
C. W. KOENIGSBERGER,
10 Old Square,
Lincoln's Inn, WC2.

kind to German acts like the Coventry bombing.

Yours faithfully,
S. JOHN PIRT,
Queen Elizabeth College,
Microbiology Department,
Atkins Building,
Campden Hill Road, W8,
February 21.

Return to owner

From Wing Commander Derek Dudley Martin

Sir, The water industry was nationalised by the Heath Administration in 1974. No compensation was paid. If the Government is not satisfied with the way the industry is working, the component parts should be returned to their original owners — mostly local authorities.

Yours faithfully,

DEREK MARTIN,
Cobble Wood,
Medmenham,
Marlow, Buckinghamshire.

the universities: once through taxes to support the Department of Education and Science, SERC and the University Grants Committee, and again directly.

We come back to the question of balance. It would surely be difficult to sustain the proposition that engineering is overfunded by SERC at present. With a quarter of the total budget, it has to provide for an academic community not far short of the total for all science and with a range of sub-disciplines equal to that of all science.

Wealth-creation comes from applied science and engineering. It is only by improving this country's wealth-creative capability that we shall be able to generate the funds to support science and engineering research, including the valuable cultural contribution made by the pure scientist and his art colleagues.

Yours faithfully,
CALDECOTE, President,
Fellowship of Engineering,
2 Little Smith Street,
Westminster, SW1.

Why IBA banned M15 programme

From Ms Liz Forgan and others

Sir, It may well be that, as you say ("Publish and be judged", February 26), the Independent Broadcasting Authority's decision to ban the Channel Four 20/20 *Vision* programme on M15 was "pusillanimous". But to criticise an isolated loss of nerve (the authority consistently published several programmes which broke section 2 of the Official Secrets Act before the new post-Ponting climate) is surely to miss the main point.

The members of the IBA (its highest council) banned the programme because lawyers advised that as a statutory body the IBA should not break the law and that if successfully prosecuted each member voting for transmission could be liable for up to two years' imprisonment and dismissal from office. The members accepted this advice despite another leading counsel's opinion that there was a defence to any prosecution and that the risk to the authority itself was so small as to be negligible.

Choices of this kind are, of course, the normal daily job of a newspaper editor or publisher. The IBA, however, is not a normal editor or publisher, though it exercises the final editorial right to decide whether to publish or not. It is also, as you point out, the statutory regulator and watchdog under the Broadcasting Act. It is as though *The Times* were to be published by a Press Council with teeth.

The question of the IBA's courage or pusillanimity is therefore a secondary one. The serious matter is that half of British television journalism is now, since the decision that such difficult matters must be referred to the full panel of members, dependent on regular, frequent, personal acts of boldness by a dozen assorted members of the great and the good.

The logic of your leader is to require urgent reform of the Broadcasting Act to make Channel Four and the independent television companies the publishers of their own programmes. Let editors edit, publishers publish and regulators regulate. But let there be a separation of powers.

Yours faithfully,

LIZ FORGAN (Assistant Controller of Programmes,
Channel Four Television),
BARRY COX (Controller of Features and Current
Affairs, London Weekend Television),
DAVID COX (Head of Current Affairs, London
Weekend Television),
BARRIE SALES (Director of News and Current
Affairs, Thames Television),
DAVID BOUTON (Executive Producer, Current
Affairs, Granada Television),
RAY FITZWALTER (Editor, *World in Action*,
Granada Television),
JOHN WILLIS (Head of Documentaries and Current
Affairs, Yorkshire Television),
PETER MOTH (Deputy Programme Controller, Tyne
Television),
MICHAEL PARTINGTON (Head of Current Affairs
and News, Tyne Television),
COLIN EWING (Head of Current Affairs, Anglia
Television),
CLIVE JONES (Head of News, Current Affairs and
Sport, Television South),
KEN BLACKIE (Head of News, Scottish Television).

Channel Four Television,
60 Charlotte Street, W1,
February 27.

High-rise 'folly'

From Mr Richard Ottaway, MP for Nottingham North (Conservative)

Sir, Your Architecture Correspondent, Charles Kneivt (feature, February 21) poses the very pertinent question: "Who will pay for the high-rise folly?" In the City of Nottingham the short answer is the ratepayer and he is going to have to pay far more than he needs.

In the late sixties two developments, Basford Flats and Balloon Woods, were opened with great civic pride and provided hundreds of homes. However, like many buildings constructed in the same way at the time, appalling structural, heating and condensation problems were experienced and just 14 years after they were erected the decision was made to demolish them.

At this time a rational decision should have been made; several property developers were queuing up to buy the blocks, demolish them and redevelop the sites as private dwellings. There would be no further cost to the ratepayers, who are saddled with paying the original construction costs for another 45 years.

But no — the council, in its manic desire to build more council houses, is asking the ratepayer to pay the demolition costs and the further cost of rebuilding. This will so distort the housing budget that throughout the entire city for the two years for which there are projections no other new buildings will be commenced.

Not only will the ratepayer suffer, but he has to pay twice over for this misery.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD OTTAWAY,
House of Commons,
February 21.

First-class subsidy

From Mrs Pamela Duveen

Sir, As Digby Anderson, in making a case (article, February 20) for British Rail's plan to ban second-class passengers from the sit-down dining car, states that discrimination can refer to highly laudable selectivity, he would, I am sure, approve my first experience of buying a Senior Citizen Rail Card.

Considering myself thoroughly second class, I was surprised to be directed to a ticket booth for "senior citizens and first-class tickets". A small queue had formed. The three obvious business executives in front of me were decidedly restless at being kept waiting while an elderly woman, surrounded by plastic bags and the general confusion of extreme old age, was being cour-

ON THIS DAY

A ROYAL WEDDING

MARCH 1, 1922

Princess Mary, declared *The Princess Royal*, 1892 (1897-1965), the only daughter of George V and Queen Mary was married to Viscount Lascelles, later the 6th Earl of Harewood at Westminster Abbey on February 28 1922. The country's people found it a welcome respite from the gloom of the early post-war years. *The Times* supplement of eight pages carried accounts of those scenes which are a feature of royal weddings — the processions, inside the Abbey, the Service, outside Buckingham Palace, the departure for the honeymoon. On this occasion, who were what occupied a whole page. But the aristocracy has shed some of its glitter and *The Times* has become less of what a member of the staff called "a tribal notice-board". The extract below is far removed from us now as are the first fashion notes in *The Daily Universal Register*.

The Countess of Huntingdon. — A black velvet cloak with a slunk collar, worn with a gown of mole-coloured velvet and a toque of black tulle trimmed with oxidized silver lace.

The Countess of Leicester. — Russian sables and a black satin Handley-Seymour cloak, lined with blue, over a satin gown.

The Dowager Countess of Minto. — An embroidered gown of brown chambray, with hat to match, and a sable cloak.

The Countess of Northbrook. — A black Reville gown veiled with lace applique on net and finished with a wide black satin sash.

The Countess of Powis. — A Rose gown of black chambray trimmed with lace and fur; tête de nègre toque and a sable cloak with jet velvet cloak with a deep fringe and lined with broché satin; black Paradise hat.

Countess Torby. — A maize-coloured gown trimmed with lace and fur; tête de nègre toque and a sable cloak with jet velvet cloak with a deep fringe and lined with broché satin; black Paradise hat.

Countess Waldegrave. — A dress of dark blue gabardine embroidered with gold over an underskirt of Indian red and a small toque with flowers to match.

The Countess of Wemyss and March. — A medieval gown of bysantine-blue crepe, trimmed with a wide hip-belt of cherry-coloured suede veiled with gold and silver lace, with long miter sleeves of georgette and a cold and about of old point d'Alençon.

Viscountess Alençon. — An Elspeth Phelps gown of grey crepe and georgette embroidered with silk and oxidized thread with a long fringe of very fine woven straw; a draped cloak of the same crepe with silk cord and tassels, bordered with deep fringe.

Viscountess Birkenhead. — A chiffon velvet coat, embroidered with steel and gold, with medieval sleeves and a large fur collar, over a Persian-embroidered Reville gown trimmed with fur.

Viscountess Bynoe. — A biscuit-coloured Reville gown of satin-beauté, the corsage embroidered in iridescent colours on crepe chiffon matching the skirt; bell sleeves and a wrap of jade and gold lame tissue lined with jade chiffon velvet, with green and gold tassels and an ermine collar; green and brocade turban hat with drooping green ostrich plumes tipped with gold.

Viscountess Cantelupo. — A pale dove-grey crepe maroon gown, with a long waist, and side panels embroidered with silver thread and crystal beads, with a hat to match; a musquash wrap, with a large collar and flounces of silver fox.

Viscountess Cave. — A gown of tobacco muslin-velvet with a sash of crepe de Chine and gold tissue.

Viscountess Chelmsford. — A Handley-Seymour gown of grey crepe roman embroidered with cut steel and trimmed with lace.

Viscountess Churchill. — A gown of black crepe maroon lined with champagne colour, the latter showing where the folds fell in the draped overdress, the front draped crosswise and lined into folds on one side by a large cut-steel buckle; fur cloak and gold tissue toque trimmed with flowers in pastel shades; Victoria and Albert Order and Coronation medals of King Edward VII and King George.

Viscountess Gladstone. — A teal-shaded crepe maroon gown (Reville) elaborately embroidered with pearls and diamonds.

Viscountess Mersey. — A mole chiffon velvet gown with a long-waisted corsage, hand embroidered in grey and gold, over an under-corsage of rich gold lace, and long side panels lined with a lighter shade of mole satin; a gold lace toque and a flowing wrap and large muff of ermine.

Brave face on it

From Mrs Margery McDowall

Sir, My mother, who died at the age of 92, did not approve of the "...winkles, crumblies" series. Her own list, more succinct, consisted of "young", "getting on", and "wonderful". Not a lot and experience be disparaged.

Yours,

MARGERY McDOWALL,
Old Mill,
Dunlop,
Ayrshire.

teously helped to buy her rail card.

When my turn came I remarked that British Rail had hit on an interesting social experiment. The clerk smiled: "It won't hurt them to wait", he said: "they don't pay for their tickets either".

After all many a pensioner, without knowing it, could be subsidising the first-class travelling executive by holding a spare ticket in his company.

If Mr Anderson still feels miffed at having to pay £95 return to Durham, let him collect sufficient divergent tokens and take a companion free. It may make him feel better.

THE ARTS

Television
Sitting
target

The Howard brothers, Gordon and Billy, 73 and 65 respectively, think Rose Cottage and its surrounding five acres "beautiful". They want to end their lives there in the family home. Barnsley Council thinks the land neglected, overgrown and unsightly, not a contributor to local amenities. Legally, it owns the lot under a Compulsory Purchase Order. The council wants to provide 78 homes for old people. At a public inquiry - "a shabby do", Billy Howard recalled - it obtained the order, subsequently confirmed by the Secretary of State.

The brothers sit tight with no electricity but with geese, 30 cats and an assortment of dogs. The cats and dogs, they said, were good at ridding. It appeared from *Whose House is it Anyway?* on BBC2's Forty Minutes last night, that though there is plenty of scope for their process, their sovereignty is not undisputed; half-burnt rat carcasses lay in piles. Neighbours complained of the smell and expressed their preference for old people's homes. The brothers were vituperative and adamant. Gordon hinted darkly of having a gun and being prepared to use it.

It was not in evidence when the council arrived to drill for soil samples. The brothers refused access and two police officers appeared and most diplomatically persuaded them to have a fence torn down to permit machinery through. They would stay, they said, to see it re-erected.

The brothers' case is before the European Court of Human Rights, which has been deliberating, inconclusively so far, over whether it has any jurisdiction. The council lacks time. A delay could lose the government grant. The council officers were patient before abuse but, of course, it was not their homes which were threatened. The brothers' solicitor, Mr Ian Wood, said that it was an appalling use of the law, a section of which could be used against anyone owning land.

The brothers have been offered several homes, the last, a three-bedroom house, within 50 yards of their present house. It had only a backyard. One dog and one cat would be permitted, which seemed constraining. The Howards would not view it anyway.

The council will not negotiate a price for the land until their value is allowed in. It is expected to be around £50,000. Neither brother mentioned money, only the principle. This month the bailiffs will arrive. It seems a case for Solomon but would he, one wondered, even if available, want to go to Barnsley?

Dennis Hackett

Cinema: Philip Strick reviews new releases and John Preston (bottom) meets Mike Newell, director of *Dance with a Stranger*

A triumph of seedy nostalgia

Dance with a Stranger (15)
Plaza; Screen-on-the-Hill

Country (PG)
Odeon Haymarket

City Heat (15)
Warner West End;
Classic Oxford Street

The fate of Ruth Ellis can be said to punctuate British social history like the closing of a chapter. Sentenced for shooting her former lover, she became on July 13, 1955, the last woman to be hanged in this country. The new era just beginning of Suez and rock 'n' roll, and the legal recognition of diminished responsibility - seems hardly likely to have interested her. To judge from *Dance with a Stranger*, Mike Newell's film of her final two years, the only important matter on Ruth Ellis's mind was the man she was going to kill.

None of the wider implications of her story, in fact, is pursued on screen. The film argues no feminist cause, pleads no abolitionist message. Its main objective seems to be, nothing more than the immaculate reconstruction of an early Fifties setting: Pathe newsreels at the pictures, the Ted Heath Band at the dance-halls, the pogo-stick craze, the stuffy television interviews, the London fogs of unique density. As designed by Andrew Mellor, it is a triumph of seedy nostalgia - there is not a fashion or furnishing out of place.

Ruth herself, glossy hostess of the tawdry Little Club, has exactly the tight bleached-blonded Monroe curls and fastidious Barbara Stanwyck make-up of a former vice-girl who is out to improve but by no means there yet, despite the erratic effect of recent elocution lessons. She is beautifully played by Miranda Richardson, hard-polished, soft-centred, wryly independent, an unmarried mother-of-two with nothing left to learn about men. The mystery, to her as well as to us, is why she should have wasted herself on the treacherous, shiftless youth who moodily destroys her career, her security and her life.

His wealthy family background offers a tenuous clue, but the mystery never does get properly solved, just as Ruth's access to a gun is left vague. The real Ruth's habitual choice of wrong men, as if she perpetually hunted for punishment, receives no emphasis in the film, which highlights instead her respectful and generous admirers. Scripted by Shelagh Delaney, her drift into disaster has a kind of weary fatalism, the more so for our awareness of the inevitable outcome.

The hanging issue is of no concern to Ruth: driven beyond rational behaviour, she takes revenge simply to get some peace. It could all have happened anywhere, at any time, and still does happen. Edgely photographed from all over the place, *Dance with a Stranger* holds the attention for its milieu and its performances: Rupert Everett as the cad, Ian Holm and Stratford Johns as Ruth's supporters, and Matthew Carroll as the luckless son are all perfect. But its sad, closed world of folly has nothing new to tell us.

On the Iowa farm where her family has lived for a hundred years, Jessica Lange is



Miranda Richardson, hard-polished but soft-centred, with Rupert Everett as the perfect cad in *Dance with a Stranger*

also losing control - of her husband, who has to be killed with a stake when he gets violent, and of the farm itself as foreclosure threatens. Again, there is a sense of familiarity: as in last week's *Places in the Heart*, we watch a plucky farmer's wife with her kids battling the elements (here comes the typhoon once more), negotiating with bankers, and becoming a fine symbol of courage and resilience. The difference, however, is that this is not *Grapes of Wrath* time, viewed from the safety of an affectionate distance. It is today, and represents the current crisis of farmers throughout the Midwest.

Directed by Richard Pearce, whose prize-winning *Heartland* was similarly about wrestling emotions, stability from the wilderness, *Country* was co-produced by Miss Lange. She was determined, she says, to draw attention to "a depression as bad as, if not worse than, the 1930s; people are being run off the land they've tended all their lives but they seem to have been forgotten by the rest of the nation". Whether the latest developments are as unavoidable as is claimed by Washington, bankers and landowners seem to have been mastering the miseries of innocent ranchers since the earliest days of the Western. In *Country*, shaking their heads over the balance sheets, scrawling notes to themselves like "Work towards voluntary liquidation", and turning up with a truck the size of a house to collect some defaulting sheep, they are worse than any gunslinger and rather more difficult to mow down.

With its repeated kitchen panoramas of food in preparation and plates piled high (the camera pulls back at one point across a remarkable landscape of sizzling pans), the film seems perversely low on hardship. The wide open spaces look bleak enough, but the invitation to sympathy is

weakened by the introduction of a feeble-minded neighbour, and by the hints that the husband (played by Sam Shepard) is not much of a farmer anyway. Jessica Lange, gorgeous as ever, has the slightly stunned look of someone who does not believe this can be happening to her, and I am afraid the mood is catching. But it is an honourable and absorbing enough exercise, and Lange and Shepard make a right handsome couple.

The same could be said, I suppose, about Clint Eastwood and Burt Reynolds: those two masters of machismo, teamed together for the first time in Richard Benjamin's *City Heat*. Adopting the Newman-Redford formula of mixing wisecracks with action against an elaborately authentic background, they succeed all too well in providing an almost offensively clownish waste of time, and talent. Cop and private detective respectively among the Kansas City speaksters of 1933, they pause in their rivalry long enough to sort out a gang war and to rescue Madeline Kahn from an ill-considered kidnapping.

Their relationship has elements of the Howard Hawks classic *A Girl in Every Port*, with one member of the unit constantly getting into a scrap so that the other has to come to his assistance. And in an absent-minded way they do share the same girl, the admirable Jane Alexander. But when Eastwood calmly walks down the middle of the street with a shotgun to blow away a flock of incompetent mobsters it is clear that we are watching the weakest of parodies, without subtlety, complexity or indeed much interest. It is superb to look at, a quite lovingly restored piece of period atmosphere, and there is a wonderful performance by Rip Torn as a gangland boss, but the effect is rather like combining the Marx Brothers with *Gone with the Wind*.

'The place and the times became absolutely crucial - they became a character. The model I had in mind for myself was Chabrol...'

It is not unusual for television directors to have difficulty finding their feet when making the big leap on to the cinema screen. Some have far more trouble acclimatising to the new medium than they had ever anticipated. Others take on blatantly unpromising material simply in order to get started. Certainly one would have been hard pressed to predict a glittering career for Mike Newell on the evidence of his first two films, *The Man in the Iron Mask* and *The Awakening*. But Newell has clearly put these early efforts a long way behind him as his fourth film, *Dance with a Stranger*, which opens in London today, amply proves. Based on the case of Ruth Ellis, it was made for the comparatively paltry sum of £1.5m.

Ellis, it seems, had transcended in more ways than one. In her obsessive desire to better herself she had paid scant regard to convention, she had unashamedly submitted to the dictates of passion and her story, when it became known, provided an alarming glimpse of just what might be going on behind the closed net curtains of the nation. It was these aspects of the case that particularly fascinated Newell.

"I was tantalized by it", he says. "And clearly I wasn't the only one. Everyone seemed to remember it so vividly. I mean, the signalman who was in the signal box next to Holloway Prison said the birds stopped singing when she died. Of course they didn't, but somehow Ruth Ellis seemed to get right to the back of the national cortex. There was obviously a kind of unspoken national co-operation in agreeing that this woman should hang. The law was not framed in such a way that she could be acquitted, but then again juries were very loath to hang people and would find the most extraordinary non-legal excuses to let them off. However, in this case they didn't."

"You began to wonder just what were the taboos she had offended against. And of course as soon as you started on that line of investigation then the place and the times became absolutely crucial - they became a character. The model I had for myself was Chabrol in the sense that his films depend on a very



Mike Newell: "In this business it doesn't do to presume anything"

clear understanding of where they take place. Shelagh Delaney and I absolutely submerged ourselves in the Fifties. We spent weeks researching what young ladies would have in their wardrobes, what people spent their money on, what was in the Top Twenty, until we had got the feel for the period fixed firmly in our minds and a strong idea of what life must have been like for Ruth Ellis."

The film though was never intended to be a documentary, or even a dramatized version of the known facts. "You can't call it a work of fiction", says Newell. "But you can absolutely call it a work of the imagination. That doesn't mean we didn't try and be as authentic as possible, it's simply that we weren't setting out to make a piece of historical anthropology. I quite deliberately used the lens of 30 years to look back through and I think it would have been pointless not to put the case and the events that led up to it in some sort of perspective. Here was this extraordinary paradox of someone who desperately wanted to join society and yet who has become a symbol of rebellion against the strictures of that society."

"It's a story of mistaken ideals, mistaken dreams and confused aspirations. But, in essence, it's about sex and more particularly what happens when one surrenders oneself completely to a relationship that is only sexual. These people cast

themselves loose and they drowned. What I tried to do was use the historical side of the story as a skeleton for the whole thing in order to explain why those events took place then and why they could not take place today."

For the part of Ellis, Newell cast Miranda Richardson, who had never appeared in a film before and was so surprised to be chosen that she almost turned it down. "I just knew she was absolutely right. I wasn't concerned with casting actors who looked like the people they were playing. In fact, Ian Holm who plays Desmond Cussen [Ruth's long-suffering protector] is 20 years older than he should be. Our only concession was to give him the same small moustache. But it's remarkable how many people have remarked on the resemblance to the real characters. Clearly the conjuring trick must have worked."

A large, red-faced, cheery man, Newell studied at Cambridge in the same batch as his fellow directors Michael Apted, Stephen Frears and Richard Eyre, then went straight to Granada on their trainee director scheme. "It was a very mixed blessing in retrospect. In many ways it taught me an awful lot, but it also taught you to regard yourself as a workhorse, which can be very dangerous. Television then tended to be very segmented in the way that writers and directors seldom had much to do with one another. I think I missed that measure of collaboration. Certainly I think I do my best work when I've got it."

Dance with a Stranger has been sending excited ripples up and down Wardour Street since before Christmas and one suspects that Newell will be much courted by big studios in the coming months. But for the time being at least he is trying to keep his expectations on as tight a rein as possible. "I always remember Freddie Jones winning almost all the best actor awards one year. He didn't work for the next 18 months. In this business it doesn't do to presume anything."

● *Ruth Ellis: The Last Woman to be Hanged*, by Robert Hancock, has been reissued by Weidenfeld (£8.95 hardback, £4.95 paperback).

Theatre

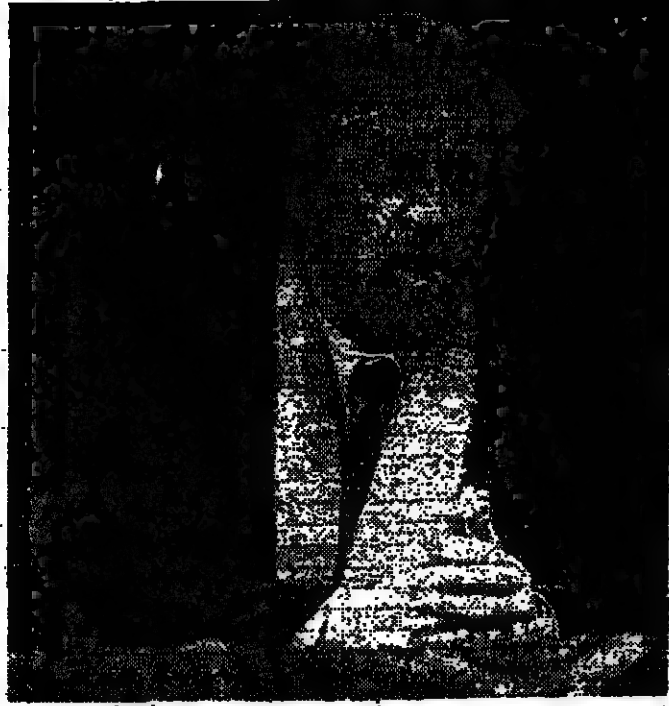
The Road to Mecca
Lyttelton

Side by side with Athol Fugard the unsparing chronicler of South African society, there is another Fugard - a poetic dramatist whose plays seem to arise more from the landscape than its people, and whose method is to pick on some enigmatic image and pursue it no matter where it may lead him.

Like *Dimetos* and *A Lesson from Aloes*, *The Road to Mecca* is the work of the poet. The image in this case is a bizarre collection of sculptures (illustrated in the Lyttelton foyer) which Fugard first saw in the Karoo village of Bethesda shortly before the suicide of the reclusive artist, Helen Martins. What were such objects doing in an Afrikaner backwater, and what was the relationship of their creator to the surrounding countryside? The play answers these questions by exploring the friendship between "Miss Helen" and a young Cape Town teacher, Elsa, so as to show the older woman finding liberation in sculpting her "Mecca" after a loveless God-fearing marriage, much to the disquiet of her devout neighbours who are now planning to dump her in an old folks' home.

To summarize the piece like that conveys absolutely nothing of its real character: as it proceeds, not with confident narrative energy, but as though Fugard were groping his way in the dark, testing each handhold, and periodically arriving at a brilliantly-lit plateau, at which point the plot moves forward another inch.

This form of composition exacts its penalties. There are times, particularly during the opening 40 minutes, when the play seems simply to be straining under a great weight. It is also one of the pieces in which Fugard appears far less



Bob Peck: a spellbinding performance

happy with dialogue than with the tirade; and if one carries away a picture from his production it is of one figure ecstatically delivering the goods while two temporarily immobilized companions await their turn.

The third figure is the village minister, Marius, and from the moment of his arrival, to get the signature that will remove Helen from Mecca, the play goes thrillingly into top gear. This is thanks partly to Bob Peck's spellbinding performance of Marius. The sight of a clergyman visiting a widow, in the shadow of a publicly-revered husband and censuring her for dabbling in aesthetic profanities, evokes irresistible echoes of Ibsen's *Ghost*. If so, Peck's Marius has all the advantages over Pastor Manders. With all the strengths and limitations of his faith, he comes over as a kind, caring friend, whose relentless flow of

solicitous advice is such that there is no way of telling until the end whether he is cunningly manipulating an embarrassing neighbour into exile, or whether he loves her.

Simultaneously the relationship between the two women redoubles in intensity: Charlotte Cornwell's Elsa, a girl with her own troubles, tongue-lashing Helen into standing up for herself, and Yvonne Bryceland, a sparrow-fraill figure in an outsize cardigan, sometimes the image of a "meek churchgoing widow", sometimes blazing into phosphorescent joy as she takes possession of her imaginative kingdom. The piece resolves in an interplay of the key images of darkness and light; magically inscribed in Douglas Heap's set, white the cluttered bric-a-brac of a neglected home mingle with the glittering walls and mirrored candelabra of the city of light.

Irving Wardle

Concerts

Bournemouth SO/
Barshai
Festival Hall/Radio 3

Although it is almost two years since the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra were last heard in London, they chose to perform at full strength and full stretch on Wednesday only in Mahler's Fourth Symphony under their principal conductor Rudolf Barshai. It was perhaps a questionable decision in the light of a performance which only intermittently illuminated the symphonic conception.

Once Sheila Armstrong stole discreetly on to the platform during the opening bars of the finale to sing the childlike vision of Heaven in the verses, with a beguiling ingenuousness that has long been hers to command, Mahler's purpose approached some kind of fulfilment. What I missed, however, was any overall relationship by which this vocal movement makes explicit the poetic ideas adumbrated in the others.

To some extent, it was a case of the conductor needing to think more in paragraphs instead of in sentences. Too often the players gave the impression of picking their way from one episode to another without the sense of a broader symphonic sweep that looks to each movement's resolution as soon as it has begun, and to the finale as the culmination of the rest. The balance of instrumental texture was at times perverse, the phrasing sketchy or prosaic.

A redeeming feature was Mr. Barshai's refusal to linger sentimentally in the *ruhelert* third movement, though there was a recurring blandness of character in this and its

forerunners; as there also was in the compact ensemble supporting Alicia de Larrocha in Mozart. Her account of the last and in some ways the most enigmatic piano concerto, K595 in B flat, was both thoughtful and personal.

Most of all she communicated a strong harmonic sense in the unexpected excursions of the first movement and the restless modulations of the second. Her solo cadenza in the finale, written out as Mozart left it, was nevertheless unusually rhetorical, as if she would balance it against the disarming simplicity of the rondo theme, to suggest that Mozart was here on the verge of something new in keyboard music which he never lived to fulfil.

Noël Goodwin

ASMF/Sillito
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Mihaila Petri, whose evolution from Danish child-prodigy to globe-trotting virtuoso is now complete, nevertheless remains a model towards whom children can be pointed. Listen to her, one can instruct firmly, and observe that the recorder need not be an instrument of torture, but is capable of taking its rightful place in the highest sphere of creativity.

Well, perhaps Telemann's Suite in A minor is not quite the highest sphere, but much of it is very fast and gave Miss Petri ample opportunity to display her deft fingering: inventive tonguing (where she chose to slur, rather than trill), was itself a lesson in baroque style, swirling ornaments and miraculous breathing. Indeed, so capacious do her lungs appear to be that a career in pearl-diving is surely waiting for her.

should the allure of Telemann ever fade.

For Vivaldi's C major Recorder Concerto she used the toothing soprano instrument. Here it became more apparent what was wrong with these performances. With her pure, vibrant tones (drifting fractionally below pitch on some notes) and the recorder's limited dynamic potential, the soloist stood in strange opposition to her own accompaniment - the richly-voiced Academy of St Martin.

Kenneth Sillito's direction of the Academy from the leader's chair was not without what the military experts might call its pre-emptive strikes, but his own solos were sweetly played and there was plenty of fervour to admire as he led his strings into the lush pastures of Suk's 5 flat Serenade - unmistakably the music of a love-crazed teenager. Here the yearning, Straussian leaps were cloaked with some delectable glissandi, and the ardent Adagio had an opulence that belied the small number of players.

They had seemed a little ill-balanced in Handel's Concerto Grosso, Op 6 No 6. Since just two violas were available for the middle line, the last movement sounded top-heavy with all 10 fiddles playing the tune in unison. No violas at all in Rossini's String Sonata No 1, of course - here Raymond Koster attacked the eccentric double-bass solos with a finesse and vigour that stole the show.

Richard Morrison

● Emil Gilels has been obliged by illness to withdraw from his scheduled Festival Hall recital on Sunday afternoon. He is replaced by Nikolai Petrov, in a programme of Bach, Mozart and Schubert.

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THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Bond washing, pensions, CGT - a Budget hat trick?

The Inland Revenue yesterday followed up the central banks' mid-week strike against the dollar by mounting its own concerted attack on the gilt-edged market.

In terms of economies of scale, Britain's tax men won hands down. It took a couple of billions of dollars disbursement to rock the dollar; the Inland Revenue pulverized the market with a single sheet of paper. Specifically, the Chancellor has decided to outlaw bond washing, a laundering technique which is already costing the Exchequer £300 million a year in lost revenue and promised to cost a great deal more as more people found their way to the Throgmorton Street washeteria.

In a virtuoso exercise of lateral thinking, the City last night forecast radical reform of capital gains tax and the future taxation of pension funds. Gilt have enjoyed favourable CGT tax treatment relative to equities on two counts; income can be converted into capital and they are exempt from capital gains tax after one year.

By blocking the loophole which enables income to be changed into capital, the Revenue brings the income streams on gilts into line with equities. A major overhaul of CGT would presumably be aimed at fiscal neutrality.

A similar argument applies to the taxation of pension funds. Taxing pension funds at, say, 10 per cent would still leave a hefty income differential between their rate and the 37½ per cent levied on insurance funds.

Bond washing the Inland Revenue defines it, is the practice whereby income on fixed interest securities, basically gilts, is converted into capital. It then becomes chargeable to CGT, a far more lenient tax than income tax, especially for higher rate taxpayers. Substantial amounts of tax can be avoided through this device, since gilt edged securities are exempt from CGT if held for more than a year and a day.

Typically, an investor buying a stock would hold it for over a year and take two dividends which would be liable to income tax. As the third dividend payment approached, and the price of the stock rose to reflect the accruing dividend, investors could sell and take the dividend reflected in the price, by proxy. A neat profit results, which in many cases is tax free because of the privileged tax position of gilt edged stocks.

Although the new legislation will not

come into effect until the end of February 1986, the gilt-edged market reacted immediately to the menace. Dealings did not open until 11 in the morning, one-and-a-half hours later than usual so that jobbers would have time to work out the price implications.

Now coupon and index linked stocks which have comparatively little to offer by way of income anyway scored immediate gains. Index-linked stocks rose by some £2, and the Government Broker sold out the remains of his long index-linked tap, Treasury 2½ per cent index-linked 2013, at £90. The stock was issued a week ago at £88. Is the way now also open for the Bank of England to issue juggernaut loads of index-linked stock and thereby cut the Government's interest bill by a huge figure? The countervailing attraction of high coupon long dated stock was certainly reduced at a stroke. They dropped by nearly a pound.

Traditionally, there is a distinction in the London gilt-edged market between short dated stocks and longs. Shorts have always been quoted in a way which splits off the capital value of the stock from the interest element, which accrues daily. Longs have always been traded with the dividend element included in the price.

Henceforth, both categories of stock will probably be quoted in terms of "clean" prices which distinguish clearly between interest and capital elements. In other words, the long-dated stocks end will now accrue dividends, a change which it is argued reduces the volatility of prices.

The latest moves should help bring London into line with other world bond markets, all of which quote government securities in clean prices. Given sterling's near parity with the dollar, the Revenue's move is yet another shift in the direction of harmonisation particularly with New York.

The principal sufferers are likely to be London's large stockbroking firms, who stand, according to one estimate, to lose up to a quarter of their income from gilt-edged operations with the abolition of bond washing.

But it has been good while it lasted, for clients of course as well as brokers. Not of course as good as it was in the late fifties when bond washing was the most magnificent, legitimate racket ever devised in the history of the Stock Exchange. In those heady years the cost to the Inland Revenue ran into billions.

White Paper with blood on it

An influential slice of the City, in the shape of a pressure group known as the City Capital Markets Committee, has taken a carving knife to last month's White Paper on Financial Services. That document sets out the Government's proposals for a new system of regulating financial services, from stock market to doorstep insurance salesmen. It is designed as the basis of legislation which would take effect at about the same time as the stock market opens its hallowed portals to outsiders.

The City Capital Markets Committee is led by Nicholas Baring, a merchant banker, and includes Ronald Artus of the Prudential, Ralph Quartano of the Post Office pension fund, such leading stock market figures as John Robertson of Wedd Durlacher and Mordaunt and Richard Westmacott of Hoare Govett, and Exco International's highly sceptical chief executive, John Gunn.

Without the active support of these men and others like them, the new system will be well nigh unworkable. True they formally endorse the White Paper's proposals; they have simply chosen to tear apart several of its most fundamental proposals.

By way of a preamble, they come down firmly in favour of a single regulatory body to cover the whole securities and

investments field, including such collective investments as insurance policies and unit trusts. The White Paper left open the question of whether there should be a separate body for the collective side.

The Committee goes on to reject many of the suggested exclusions from the future Act's scope. These cover self-managed investment trust companies and the investment management of insurance and pension funds. "It would be wholly unacceptable if investment managers not requiring authorization operated in a way which would incur penalties if followed by those who are authorized," the Committee says.

The submission then dismisses the White Paper's attempts to eliminate conflicts of interest, making the interesting claim that "conflicts of interest are inherent in firms offering diversified financial services". The Committee shies away from the logical alternative, which would be to outlaw such firms in the first place.

Its deadliest fire is reserved for the White Paper's lack of teeth. It argues that the City Takeover Panel should be given statutory backing, that the new Securities Industry Board should have the power to fine transgressors, and that the SIB should be able to require the Department of Trade and Industry to investigate cases of alleged fraud.

RP Martin sold for £34.9m

By Our City Staff

R. P. Martin, the money broker, is being bought by Quadrex NV, a private investment banking group, for £34.9 million. A majority of Martin shareholders have already agreed to accept the bid.

Quadrex made its 450p per share cash offer through a new British company, Quadrex Holdings. The bid has Bank of England approval and Quadrex says the recognized broker status of Martin would not be affected by the change of ownership.

Quadrex NV will put £21 million into its new company as working capital and borrow the remainder needed to finance the offer.

The board of Quadrex, whose chairman is Mr A. Gary Klesch, proposes that Martin should continue to develop its existing business under its present management with Mr Peter Endres remaining as chief executive.

Quadrex NV and its UK subsidiary, Quadrex Securities, describe themselves as a private international investment banking group with principal operating offices in London and New York.

The takeover talks are the company's second this year. The shares resumed trading yesterday at 440p. Six weeks ago they were 310p.

'Expand ECGD' call

The Treasury was yesterday reprimanded by an all-party committee of MPs for taking an overly short-term view of the finances of the Export Credits Guarantee Department writes John Lawless.

The House of Commons Trade and Industry Committee, in a report of the ECGD, said it felt the Treasury "would not wish to find itself standing in the way of exports and will wish

to examine its position in this context".

It recommended that the state insurance agency should be allowed to break the Government's public expenditure rules and mount a wide-ranging campaign to recruit more staff. It added that it should be given money to spend on modern communication systems to overcome the mistake of moving half its staff to Cardiff, four years ago.

By Jonathan Davis
Business Correspondent

ICI reached a new landmark in British industrial history yesterday when it became the first company outside the oil business to record profits of £1 billion in a year. Helped by the strength of the dollar, the chemicals group put the cap on its vigorous recovery from the 1979-80 recession by announcing record profits of £1.034 billion last year, together with a 25 per cent increase in its annual dividend.

The result was 67 per cent better than the previous year's pretax profit of £619 million and means ICI has succeeded in meeting the billion pound target set a year ago by Mr John Harvey-Jones, the chairman.

At the time, the figure was seen as little more than a light-highted public challenge by the chairman to his colleagues, but in the past few months it has become increasingly obvious that the target was going to be attained.

City analysts have been raising their forecasts for ICI's

John Harvey-Jones: modest improvement next time

full-year figures or some time and yesterday's outcome was in line with stock market forecasts. ICI's shares closed up 8p at 864p.

Mr Harvey-Jones described the figures as "rewarding" and said the company was "modestly pleased" with the improvement in the first quarter. "It is an encouraging start, and all of us will be disappointed if we don't perform better in 1985 than in 1984", he said.

There were no signs so far of the next cyclical downturn in the heavy chemical market, though much would depend on what happened on the foreign exchange markets in the coming months, he added.

ICI's trading profit last year (before interest, tax and share of associates' profits) was £1.063 billion, of which the fourth quarter accounted for £254 million. The year was notable for the fact that for the first time since the mid-1970s, all nine of the company's main business segments traded in the black.

The bulk of the profits again came from pharmaceuticals (£249 million), agriculture and agrochemicals (£218 million), general chemicals (£145 million) and North Sea oil (£109 million). The biggest improvement, however, was in the petrochemicals and plastics division, with trading profit of £138 million after four years of losses. The fibres business also made a small profit of £22 million, its first since 1974.

ICI's drive to raise its exposure in the US market is

reflected in the fact that trading profits in the Americas - led by the runaway success of its heart drug Tenormin - were up by 80 per cent to £214 million, although Britain continued to provide just under 60 per cent of the total profit. The figures do not include any contribution from the recent \$750 million (£688 million) acquisition of the Beatrice chemical activities in the US.

Mr Harvey-Jones estimated that exchange rates effects had added around £100 million to the final profit figure. He reiterated that ICI was on the lookout for further acquisitions, particularly in the US. Capital expenditure this year is expected to be around last year's level of £441 million.

The final dividend has been set at 18p, making a final payout of 30p, against 24p the previous year. ICI's total chemical turnover last year was up 18 per cent, of which higher prices accounted for 4 per cent, exchange rate movements 6 per cent, and higher sales volume 8 per cent.

Whitehall admits Opec links

By David Young
Energy Correspondent

The Government has admitted that it keeps in regular contact with member states of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to determine how its decisions affect North Sea prices, government oil revenues, and United Kingdom exports.

This emerged in evidence to the Commons Select Committee currently examining the government proposal to provide a further £25 million of aid for the state oil trading operation, the British National Oil Corporation. BNOC was given £45 million last autumn to cover its losses from buying in North Sea crude at contract prices and having to sell it at spot market rates \$2 a barrel lower.

The Foreign Office said that staff posted to oil producing states were expected to regard oil issues "as among their principal tasks".

The Foreign Office added that sharp oil price changes were not in the interests of consumer or producer nations because they tended to destabilize the world financial system.

The Treasury, also admitted yesterday that the activities of Opec were being monitored.

On the Rotterdam spot market North Sea crude oil prices continued to fall slowly yesterday with deals being struck for delivery in one month at around \$27.15 a barrel, a fall of 20 cents on the opening price.

The falling spot market prices increase BNOC's losses and yesterday, Opec members said that they were now encountering "some difficulty" in selling very light crude oils at new lower prices and that pressure was emerging for a further price cut.

MPs criticize 'optimistic' spending plans

The all-party Treasury and Civil Service Committee had questioned the Government's public expenditure plans. In a report on the January public expenditure White Paper, published yesterday, it concludes that next year's plans are likely to be overshoot while targets for later years look optimistic.

The committee, chaired by Mr Terence Higgins, says that the £3 billion reserve for 1985/86 is likely to prove inadequate. The pressures to push spending above the Government's £132 billion target will come from public sector pay, the effects of the unwinding of the miners' strike, and the local authorities.

In later years, public sector pay and local authority spending will continue to push spending above target, the committee says, while the Treasury appears to be making an unrealistically low assumption about the likely rise in benefits expenditure on the unemployed.

Shares plunge as Burnett reveals debt measures

By Philip Robinson

Shares of Burnett & Hallamshire Holdings, Britain's principal private coal mining group, plunged yesterday as the group announced it was seeking the co-operation of its main bankers to reduce debts.

The latest accounts, published 11 months ago, show that debts repayable on demand had soared from £8.2 million to £32.6 million. Analysts say the miners' strike would have sharply increased the group's total borrowings this year.

Burnett said it issued the statement only because of speculation in the stock market.

The shares had been losing ground since Tuesday. Yesterday they more than halved to 70p, one point, but recovered to 73p, down 65p on the day and 100p so far on the week.

Central to the problems is the group's ill-fated investments in Californian property. Analysts say that Burnett's exposure there totals \$100 million (£92.5 million). The whole company was valued on the stock market last night at only £27 million.

Burnett directors have declined to add to the formal statement. This repeated last November's statement of its

aim to reduce exposure to Californian property interests. At that time Mr Eric Grayson, chairman and chief executive, said: "It is hoped to achieve material progress in this regard during the second half."

The company's statement yesterday, with barely a month left of the second half of its financial year said: "This reduction is likely to take some time to achieve."

Stock market traders were saying last night that Burnett could become a bid target once the US property side had been sold.

Hong Kong accord lifts China hopes

Lord Young, leader of the highest-level British trade delegation ever assembled, said yesterday a new chapter had opened for Sino-British trade since the Hong Kong issue was resolved last year, Mary Lee writes from Peking.

The delegation, comprising executives from 10 companies, including Babcock Inter-

national, General Electric Company, Northern Engineering Industries, Rolls-Royce and the BOC Group, expects to sign several multi-million pound contracts.

One such contract - a seven-year manufacturing agreement worth \$65.4 million (£60 million) - will be sealed on Monday between Aveling-

Barford and the Beijing Construction Dumphrick Works and the China National Automotive Industrial Import and Export Corporation for the manufacture of Aveling-Barford RD 030 off-highway dump-trucks.

Among the items the British are interested in selling to China are jet engines.

IN BRIEF

Fisons calls for £94.3m

Fisons, the pharmaceuticals, scientific equipment and horticulture group, has called on shareholders for another £94.3 million by way of a one-for-five rights issue at 345p. The money will be used to finance capital expenditure over the next two years and to fund acquisitions. The company has been looking to buy an American pharmaceutical business for some time, but a more likely target will be a US scientific equipment manufacturer.

Yesterday the company reported record pretax profits for the year ended December 31, 1984 of £48.3 million (£31.2 million). Turnover increased from £365.4 million to £552.6 million. A final dividend of 2.7p makes 4.5p for the year (3.75p).

Tempos, page 23.

Euroferries buys US site

European Ferries has bought 1,300 acres of land at Denver, Colorado, for \$52 million (£47.7 million) and plans to develop between 10 and 15 million sq ft of offices and warehousing there over 20 years. The site, the Meridian Business Park, has been bought by TCD North, an EF subsidiary, from the Harford Insurance Group.

The London International Financial Futures Exchange (Liffe) will charge £7,500 for a permit to trade the new options contracts on eurodollars and the pound/dollar, due to start in June. Both Liffe members and non-members will be charged the fee. Early indications are that about 160 Liffe members will want to trade options out of a total membership of more than 200.

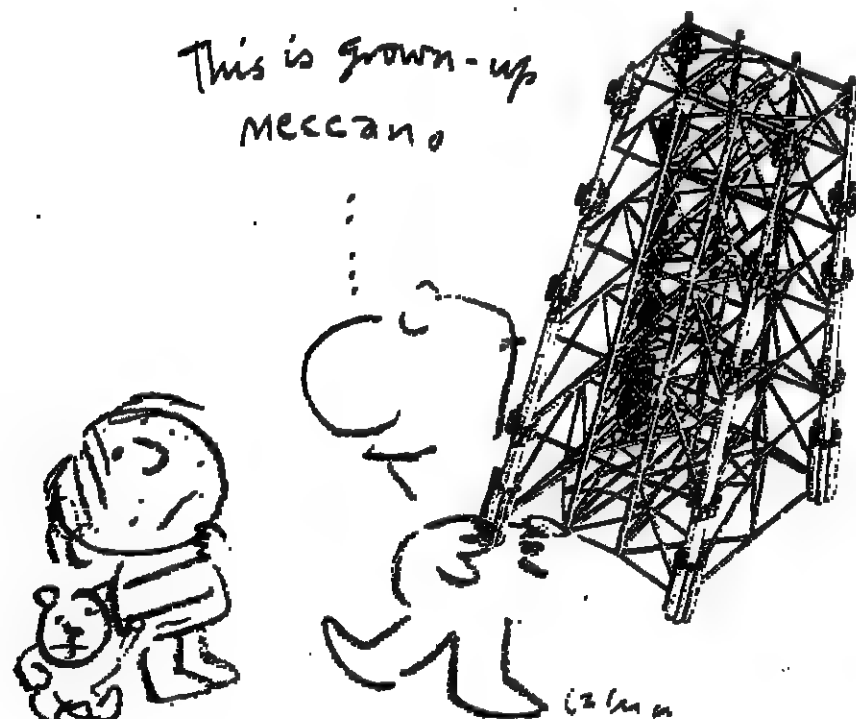
Raglan deal

Raglan Property Trust is making a cash and shares offer of £4.53 million for six properties owned by the Glyndwr Group and valued at £4.25 million. Raglan will issue 56.34 million new ordinary shares to pay for the acquisition. The Glyndwr Group will be allotted 33.1 million Raglan shares at 8.5p each and £1.43 million in cash. It will retain 28.9 per cent of the enlarged share capital.

Saga profit

Saga Holidays reported pretax profits of £2.6 million for the year to December 31, up from £2.4 million in the previous 16 months. Turnover fell from £90.3 million to £85.8 million.

Tempos, page 23



Turn of the century Liverpool was a powerhouse of industrial activity and invention. There, in 1901, Frank Hornby devised the system of nuts, bolts and girders that we know as Meccano.

At the same time and also on the banks of the Mersey, we were in our adolescence — and much too busy to concern ourselves with a toy like Mr. Hornby's.

Eighty-four years on, in our hundredth year in the UK, we have no such teenage inhibitions. In the North Sea, our £400 million tower of steel is one of Britain's newest oil production platforms. Built with the best of contemporary British technology and know-how, the platform's component parts were assembled offshore in just 23 days.

That's a near-record for the North Sea.

And not a bad time for the playroom floor, either.

Mobil

STOCK MARKETS	
FT Ind Ord	981.1(+0.9)
FT-A All Share	N/A
FT Govt Securities	80.56(+0.34)
FT-SE 100	1298.7(+0.9)
Bargains: 25,013	
Dataseam USM	109.02(+0.10)
New York	1278.48(-2.54)
Tokyo	12,321.92(+34.54)
Nikkei Dow	1375.25(-12.37)
Hong Kong	198.8(-1.3)
Amsterdam	792.3(+5.5)
Sydney: AO	1173.8(+3.0)
Frankfurt	242.80(+6.74)
Brussels	201.5(-1.0)
Paris: CAC	336.40(-0.40)
Zurich	
SKA General	

GOLD	
London fixing:	
am \$290.50pm-\$287.75	
close \$288.50-\$289.25	(2266-266.50)
New York \$287.65	
Comex (latest)	

MAIN PRICE CHANGES	
RISES:	
Brewmaker	34 +6
Zygal Dynamics	30 +5
Newman Ind.	24 +4
Botton Textile	20 +3
Offield Insp.	135 +20
Sangers	45 +2
Breville Europe	53 +5
Cluff Oil	18 +2
Norfolk Cap.	25 +2
Platters	275 +20
Regallan Props	92 +6
Connells Est.	106 +6
Harold Ingram	80 +5
Hunting Gibson	91 +5
FALLS:	
Burnett & Hall	70 -65
Nova	21 -5
Telefusion	33 -6
Star Comp	35 -3
Steinberg Op	86 -5
York Trailer	31 -2
Sutcliffe	32 -2
Strong & Fisher	142 -12
Johnson, Matthey	71 -4
Shiloh	39 -2

CURRENCIES	
London:	
\$: \$1.0827 (-0.0073)	
DM: 3.6130 (-0.0017)	
Sfr: 3.2525 (-0.0070)	
FFr: 11.0450 (-0.0305)	
Yen: 280.60 (-0.94)	
Index: 71.3 (-0.3)	
New York:	
\$: \$1.0788	
DM: 3.5495	
Index: 153.4 (+0.4)	
INTEREST RATES	
London:	
Bank Base: 14%	
3-month Interbank 14-13½%	
3-month eligible bills: 13¼%-13½%	
buying rate US:	
Prime Rate 10.50%	
Federal Funds 8¼%	
3-month Treasury Bills 8.48-8.44	
Long bond 9¼(94¼) yield	

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Gilt prices slip on tax warning

By Pam Spooner and Cliff Feltham

Government stocks were the centre of stock market attention yesterday as the Inland Revenue gave warning of its clampdown on the tax avoidance practice of "bond washing" - a way of turning income on gilts into capital gains for tax purposes.

High-coupon, long-dated stocks will be worst hit by the tightening of tax rules, and gilts price, quickly reflected the damage. In early pricing - before business actually got under way - losses of as much as £1 were shown, but by the end of the day these had been cut to about 50p and 75p.

Low-coupon and index-linked gilts gained from the news, as investors turned to them as offering less exposure to income tax. Rates of as much as £2 appeared.

Life insurers were also affected by the tax changes, because their net investment funds have made considerable use of bond washing. Assurers pay income tax - at the rate of 37.5 per cent - on certain of their monies, while funds invested for pensions, known as gross funds, are exempt from tax; thus, bond washing has been particularly useful to the life offices.

Share prices in the sector lost much of earlier gains, which had been sparked by optimism about future sales prospects for self-employed pensions and investment contracts. Most of the double-figure rises which

followed that early cheer were reduced to single figures. Leading equities traded quietly, although the profits and dividends news from Imperial Chemical Industries helped keep the market busy. The ICI price rose 8p to 864p immediately after the lunchtime announcement, but profit-taking soon crept in, and the shares eventually closed down 9p at 847p.

Note the strength of USM-quoted Oilfield Inspection Services, up a further 20p yesterday to 135p to make a 45p gain on the week. OIS is 21 per cent owned by East of Scotland Onshore, an investment trust which is being bid for by Industrial Finance and Investment Corporation. IFICO intends to liquidate the trust and speculation is growing that it has found a buyer for the 21 per cent OIS stake who is interested in bidding for the whole company.

The FT 30 share index ended the day almost unchanged at 981.1, up 0.9. FT-SE 100 index made a similar gain, closing at 1259.7.

Burnett & Hatfieldshire crumpled on confirmation that the group is in discussions with its bankers. The share price dived from 135p to 60p at one stage, before showing a modicum of recovery and closing at 70p.

Baggeridge Brick came in for

bid rumours and rose 10p to 242p in response. Bramer, the ball bearing maker which has also appeared on the takeover-hopefuls list, slipped 7p to 313p at one stage before returning to 318p to show just a 1p loss.

DRG, the paper products group and another bid possessor, rose 3p to 161p as the company announced results from its New Zealand subsidiary. The kiwi operation produced profits of £3,010,000 in 1984, a more than 30 per cent increase over the pretax figure for 1983.

The shares were also helped by a large buyer of the stock, and the DRG price was reported to be gaining more ground in after hours trading. The group, best known for its Basilidon Bond products, has long been rumoured to be a takeover target.

Connells Estate Agents rose 3p to 103p alongside a statement from the chairman ahead of today's publication of a prospectus for rivals Mann & Co. Mr John Simon, at Connells, reckons his company's performance stands up well in comparison to Mann and looks forward to announcing news of expansion for his group.

Hilldown Holdings, the food group which came to the stock market just two weeks ago, received a sharp mark down yesterday as about 500,000 shares came on offer. The seller helped take 10p off the share price, down to 165p. Although

Hilldown opened at a healthy 35p premium to the 145p striking price, the shares have had a difficult time making headway since their debut.

Elsewhere among food makers and distributors, S & W Berisford continued its climb back from weakness with a 4p rise to 174p. City analysts are buying the shares again, having seen the price fall as a result of stock market concern for

Speculation centred on Ashley Industrial Trust where the shares jumped 3p to 27p compared with a 12-month low of 12p. The trust is effectively controlled by the Choplartan family which last year increased its holding from 49.7 per cent to 50.4 per cent. Ashley made a loss before tax of £269,000 last year. Its main business is plywood manufacturing, and distribution of video cassettes and films.

profitability at British Sugar and the property division. Bernard Matthews, well known for its turkey and meat products, moved higher again, up 5p to 314p. There is enthusiasm for the company's new marketing push and extension of its sales range.

On the stores pinge, Albert Fisher went to a new price peak of 131p, up 5p on the day. The shares enjoy speculative support. City men hope for a takeover bid for the fruit and vegetable wholesaler, which has grown rapidly since Mr Tony Millar took over as chairman three years ago.

GKN, Britain's biggest engine

ering group, was looking firmer ahead of full year results due next week. The shares rose 3p to 214p following a confident forecast from James Capel of £125 million against £88.1 million, which is in excess of most predictions of between £120 and £123 million.

The brokers are encouraged by the benefits of rationalization now beginning to show through while the pound's weakness against the dollar is expected to flatter the second half performance.

Meyer International, the timber group, stayed at 117p, although the stockbroker, Laurie Milbank, has put a "sell" tag on the shares. Mr Adrian Goodall, analyst, reckons lower volume expectations and some erosion of margins on house building will hurt profits this year, and he has cut his forecast accordingly. The same problems affect Magnet & Southern, he says, and forecasts there have also been trimmed. Magnet shares were unchanged at 126p.

Standard Telephones & Cables recovered 8p to 200p yesterday, having been hurt by the recent rights issue and this week's profits news. But one leading broker still sees little to look forward to at the group and suggests clients should sell on any significant strength.

The steady retreat in the price of chemicals group W. Canning from its 122p peak since Brent Chemicals unloaded its stake and retired from the scene as a likely predator continued yesterday with the shares drifting further to 98p, a fall of 1p.

Profit surge of 55% inspires Fisons to call for £94m

Who needs four cylinders when you have three which are firing as well as those at Fisons? In 1984 the company powered ahead to pretax profits of £48.3 million, ahead of even the most optimistic forecasts and nearly 55 per cent up on the £31.2 million achieved last time.

The improvement came from all three divisions but perhaps more important Fisons' air of confidence and purpose. It has asked shareholders for another £94.3 million by way of a one-for-five rights issue at 245p and should get a good response.

In assessing the 1984 figures it is difficult to single out any one of the business for particular practice since the improvements have been so evenly and generously spread.

Despite a sluggish performance in Britain, inspired by the Government's attention to drug prices, the pharmaceuticals division had a good year.

At the heart of the profits growth was the US where sales increased by 55 per cent in dollar terms and 75 per cent after translation. The largest contribution to the improvement in the scientific equipment division came from the acquisition of Curin Matheson Scientific in the US. It added about £8 million in a total of £15.8 million for the year but should not be allowed to overshadow growth of 30 per cent from existing businesses.

The CMS acquisition was clearly important. It gave Fisons a significant presence in the US but more important it has allowed a diversification into the booming healthcare and diagnostic market. In addition the group will now be able to feed some of its British manufactured products into the US through CMS.

In percentage terms, the best growth came from the horticultural division. Again the US

operations led the way with the bulk peat business moving into the black and achieving price stability on the back of much improved consumer demand. Fisons will slowly expand its value-added products out of the solid California base and this in turn will bring growth.

The strong trading performance is backed by an equally solid balance sheet. Fisons moved into a net debt position during the year of £53 million, although this was due entirely to acquisitions with related borrowings and currency translation. Trading cash flow was neutral, but sufficient to cover capital spending of £27 million.

After the rights issue the picture will look healthier, in the short term. The new cash will be used to meet the capital spending of £50 million over the next two years and more significantly to finance acquisitions.

Fisons has long been seeking a US pharmaceuticals company. Present prices tend to inhibit such a move and acquisitions in the scientific equipment sector are more likely. The emphasis here will be on manufacturing to complement CMS's activities and bring margin improvements.

Acquisitions still play a second fiddle to organic growth, however, in the Fisons philosophy serving to accelerate rather than provide improvements. The company still has sufficient opportunities to expand markets for its existing drugs to provide that growth until new products are introduced. Similarly, both the scientific equipment and horticulture divisions have internal growth prospects.

Profits of approaching £70 million do not look unreasonable for 1985, and although some would say that longer term Fisons becomes more of a high risk-high reward investment, the company's recent

record must allay many fears. In 1984 earnings benefited from a lower-than-expected tax charge which will not be repeated but even allowing for this the rating is far from demanding.

Saga Holidays

With its disastrous venture into general package holidays through the purchase of Laker Holidays now no more than an unhappy memory, Saga Holidays has been able to concentrate on what it does best, providing holidays for the over 60s.

The benefits of pursuing this niche market are plain to see with preliminary pretax profits on a like for like basis up from £1.4 million to £2.6 million. The key to this success has been the US which contributed 44 per cent of profits, up from 13 per cent, yet only accounts for 30 per cent of turnover.

Saga's venture into the US, using the same formula as in Britain, has the hallmarks of being a lasting success. The operation got off to a very nervous start when it was launched but the strength of the dollar has helped enormously.

Saga has not been slow to point out the benefits of a holiday in Europe to the North Americans and has reaped the benefit.

The US success more than compensated for a dull British market and in the current year the performance is likely to be repeated.

The early strength of holiday bookings in Britain has tailed off and although still ahead of last year will show little overall growth. However, margins are holding up and linked with the US performance and good improvements in cruises and long haul holidays, profits in 1984/85 could approach £4 million.

NOTICE OF REDEMPTION

To the Holders of

W. R. Grace Overseas Development Corporation

5% Guaranteed Sinking Fund Debentures Due 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the provisions of the Indenture dated as of April 1, 1966 providing for the above Debentures, said Debentures aggregating \$750,000 principal amount have been selected for redemption on April 1, 1985 through operation of the Sinking Fund at the redemption price of 100% of the principal amount thereof, together with accrued interest to said date, as follows:

Outstanding Debentures of \$1,000 each of prefix "M" bearing the distinctive numbers ending in any of the following two digits:

09 10 21 22 33 34 45 46 57 58 69 70 81 82 93 94

Also Debentures of \$1,000 each of prefix "M" bearing the following serial numbers:

1265 2056 4888 5586 8886 9888 11388 11886 12488 12788 13088 13886 14286 14386

Payment will be made upon presentation and surrender of the above Debentures with coupons due October 1, 1985 and subsequent coupons attached at the main offices of any of the following: Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, 30 West Broadway, New York, New York 10015; Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York in Brussels, Frankfurt am Main, London and Paris; Algemeene Bank Nederland N.V. in Amsterdam; Credito Italiano in Milan; and Banque Internationale à Luxembourg S.A. in Luxembourg. Payments at the office of any paying agent outside of the United States will be made by check drawn on, or transfer to a United States dollar account with a bank in the Borough of Manhattan, City and State of New York. Any payment made by transfer to an account maintained by the payee with a bank in the United States may be subject to reporting to the United States Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and to backup withholding at a rate of 20% if payees not recognized as exempt recipients fail to provide the paying agent with an executed IRS Form W-9, certifying under penalties of perjury that the payee is not a United States person or an executed IRS Form W-9, certifying under penalties of perjury that the payee's taxpayer identification number (employer identification number or social security number, as appropriate). Those holders who are required to provide their correct taxpayer identification number on Internal Revenue Service Form W-9 and who fail to do so may also be subject to a penalty of \$50. Please therefore provide the appropriate certification when presenting your securities for payment. Coupons due April 1, 1985 should be detached and collected in the usual manner.

On and after April 1, 1985 interest shall cease to accrue on the Debentures selected for redemption. The current conversion price of the Debentures is \$57.32 per share of Common Stock of W. R. Grace & Co. The right to convert the Debentures called for redemption shall expire at the close of business on March 22, 1985.

W. R. GRACE OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Dated: March 1, 1985

ICI in 1984

Profits over £1 billion in record year.

The Board of Directors of Imperial Chemical Industries PLC announce the following trading results of the Group for the year 1984 subject to completion of the audit, with comparative figures for 1983

ICI Group financial highlights

'Group' means ICI and its subsidiaries. '£m' means millions of pounds sterling.

	1984 £m	1983 £m
Turnover/sales to customers outside the Group	2,346	2,184
Chemicals - UK	6,474	5,264
- overseas	1,089	808
Oil	9,909	8,256
Total turnover	1,063	693
Trading profit	1,034	619
Profit before taxation	605	397
Net profit attributable to parent company, before extraordinary items	98.2p	65.3p
Earnings (before extraordinary items) per £1 Ordinary Stock	30.0p	24.0p
Dividends per £1 Ordinary Stock		

Trading results for the first quarter of 1985 will be announced on Thursday 25 April 1985.



Imperial
Chemical
Industries
PLC

Traded option highlights

The traded options market was in the doldrums yesterday, with neither business volume nor price movements showing much zest. A total number of 5,644 contracts changed hands, and no one option achieved the 1,000 contracts-traded level.

ICI claimed some attention on the day of its annual results:

937 contracts in the shares changed hands and the April series options saw 10p added to their prices.

British Telecom options retained demand, with 820 contracts traded. Beecham came into third place in the volume table, as 323 contracts changed hands.

FISONS

ANOTHER RECORD PERFORMANCE

Profits £48.3 million - Up 54.8%

Preliminary Results for 1984:

■ A record pre-tax profit of £48.3m (1983: £31.2m).

■ Sales up 51.2% at £552.6m, with particularly strong growth in the USA, Japan and mainland Europe. Overseas sales now account for 80% of the total.

■ Emphasis on marketing and operating efficiency increased market share and profitability in the key areas for all three Divisions.

■ Six acquisitions carried forward the Group strategy of expanding in international growth industries with strong profit records.

■ High level of research and development continued.

Fisons today is an internationally expanding and technology based company operating three core business Divisions: Pharmaceuticals, Scientific Equipment and Horticulture.

	1983 £m	1984 £m	% increase
Sales	365.4	552.6	+51.2
Group profit before taxation	31.2	48.3	+54.8
Group profit after taxation	25.1	38.0	+51.4
Earnings per share	14.4p	19.5p	+35.4

The Board is recommending a final dividend of 27p net (22.5p net) per Ordinary share, making a total of 4.5p net (3.75p net) for the full year, an increase of 20%.

The comparative figures set out in the preliminary results above are an abridged version of information contained in the Group's financial statements for the year ended 31 December 1983 which have been filed with the Registrar of Companies. An unqualified audit report was issued in respect of these financial statements.

Fisons Pharmaceutical Division is a world leader in the fields of allergy and immunology with rapidly growing sales particularly in the USA, Japan, and EEC countries. To maintain its leadership position its laboratories work at the frontiers of allergy research.

Fisons Scientific Equipment Division is the world's third largest supplier of science products and is expanding dramatically, especially in the North American healthcare market.

Fisons Horticulture Division's products are market leaders in the UK being sold both to the leisure gardener and the professional grower. The Division is also developing new markets in the USA and exports around the world.

FISONS

Horticulture
Pharmaceuticals
Scientific Equipment

INDUSTRY TODAY

Volatile dollar poses long-term threat for Britain's exporters

By David Smith

A disturbing change has taken place after years of living with a rising US currency

The foreign exchange markets produced a new and disturbing development this week for Britain's exporters to deal with. Having become used to a rising dollar, they were suddenly faced with one that was falling, and falling rapidly.

The immediate casualties of the dollar's sharp fall in the middle of this week, arising out of comments by the Federal Reserve chairman Mr Paul Volcker and concerted intervention by the European central banks, were the foreign exchange dealers.

However, the long-term dangers of excessive currency volatility are to trade, and to Britain's exporters.

Sir Terence Beckett, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, has supported the Government in its efforts to "teach the speculators a lesson."

But after the dollar's fall, a CBI spokesman said: "It is a pity that exchange rates have been so volatile recently as this

Excessive volatility reduces the benefits of floating exchange rates

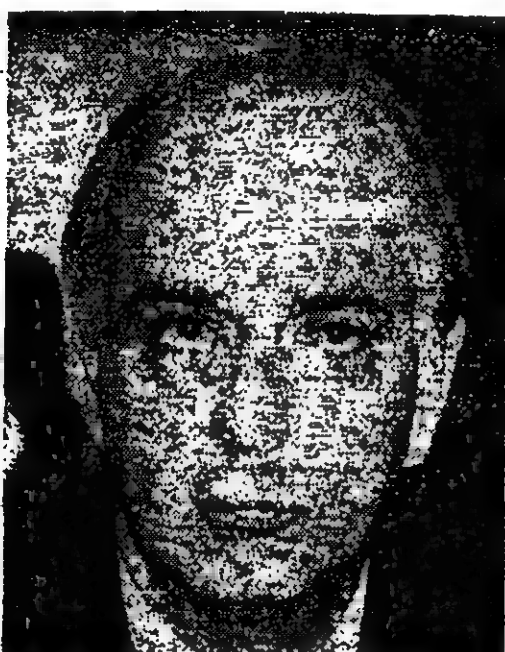
is disruptive to companies trading internationally."

The CBI has been emphasizing the benefits of the strong dollar to British exporters. Its latest industrial trends survey, published on Monday, showed export order books at their best level since 1977.

The January trade figures, also published this week, showed exports at a near record \$6,541 million, with export volume, excluding oil, up by 10 per cent on a year ago, in the latest three months.

Although the Department of Trade was not drawing any conclusions about the relationship between these export figures and the sterling exchange rate, it is clear that there has been a major benefit.

Economic trade theory sug-



Sir Terence Beckett, left and Mr Paul Volcker: worried about the dollar

gests that floating exchange rates are better for trade than fixed rates in that they provide for greater flexibility and speedier adjustment of rates.

The caveat usually applied to this is that where "floating" means "excessive volatility," the benefits of flexibility will be reduced, or even disappear.

The dollar's rise, most dramatically illustrated in the movement of sterling from above \$2.40 four years ago to, briefly, under \$1.05 this week, has not been steady.

However, it is clear that much of the momentum for the recent increase in British exports, particularly to the US, has been because of a realization among British companies that dollar strength is probably with us for some time and the scope is there to take advantage of it.

The danger with the sort of volatile movements we have seen on the foreign exchanges this week, unprecedented even by the volatile standards of floating rates, is that they will discourage those firms which were about to test the water.

The second and more direct danger is that to existing exporters who, while covering themselves in the normal way in the forward markets, cannot protect themselves against violent currency swings.

Leading companies like British Petroleum, with a foreign exchange dealing room which turns over more in a day than many banks, and ICI,

should be able to protect themselves fairly adequately, both through direct operations in the foreign exchange markets, more sophisticated instruments like currency options and a wide spread of interests.

A report last month by Sirpro (Simplification of International Trade Procedures Board) claimed that a disturbingly high proportion of export documen-

'Developing a market is a long-term business, taking three, four or five years'

tation completed by British firms for their banks is incorrect, leading to delays.

In January, the Centre for Physical Distribution Management reported that only a fifth of British firms were prepared to quote delivered prices for goods and were losing orders as a result.

These examples suggest that the export benefits of the pound's low level against the dollar could have been even greater. However, they also point to a lack of sophistication among exporters which, the indications are, extends to their foreign currency operations.

Anecdotal evidence from the banks suggests that a high proportion of exporters do not even use forward cover, preferring to take a gamble on the

likely movements in exchange rates.

No British company is going to be wiped out by this week's sharp movements on the foreign exchanges.

However, if this week's developments provide an early indication of what may happen when the long-awaited dollar fall eventually does come, then that is disturbing.

Exporters can live with a higher pound, they can live with a gently declining dollar, but regular currency turbulence of the type we have seen this week will put the brakes on trade.

Around 70 per cent of British exports are still invoiced in sterling, according to Institute of Export figures. This can mean the worst of both worlds for British companies. They fail to reap the benefits of favourable exchange rate movements, while they are still subject to loss of business resulting from the uncertainties created by general currency instability.

Mr David Royce, director-general of the Institute of Export, said: "Managing directors in this country often look at the forward markets and think that it must be speculative whereas it is exactly the opposite."

"It is the view of this institute that stability in exchange rates is more important than particular levels. Developing a market is a long-term business, taking three, four or five years. That can all be wiped out by violent swings in the exchange rates."

COMPANY NEWS

● **EAST OF SCOTLAND ONSHORE:** The board continues to reject the Industrial Finance and Investment offer and is writing to them.

● **RANKS HOVIS MEDOU-GALL** has invested £10 million in its flour mill at Trafford Park, Manchester, to almost double its capacity.

● **ROBERTSON RESEARCH:** Robertson's wholly owned offshoot, Robertson Research International, has signed a contract for consultancy and technical services for a petroleum assistance project in Sudan. The contract, financed through the International Development Association of the World Bank, is worth more than \$6 million and is expected to last three years.

● **BOUSTED** has agreed to increase its investment in Parques Investment Co (PIC) by acquiring 51.1 per cent of the issued ordinary capital for some £340,000, which will be satisfied by the issue of 525,450 ordinary shares in Bousted. Bousted will then own 62.2 per cent of the issued capital of PIC. Bousted will also subscribe for 340,000 new ordinary shares in PIC at a cost of £155,000. Bousted's interest will then amount to 78.3 per cent.

● **THE RANKS ORGANISATION:** Sir Patrick Meaney, the chairman, says in his annual statement that it would be folly to be too optimistic about the future in a highly competitive world, with continuing economic problems, high interest rates, volatile foreign exchanges and growing protectionism. Trading performance in the current year has continued to show improvement in the managed businesses and increased profitability is expected from the associate companies.

● **INDEPENDENT NEWS-PAPERS:** The pattern of trading in 1985 will be somewhat similar to that in 1984: Mr A. J. F. O'Reilly says in his annual chairman's statement. There will be substantial progress internationally and continuing difficulties within Ireland. Pressure on all Irish newspapers will be intensified if the proposed local broadcasting stations are established.

● **S & W BERSFORD:** Mr Ephraim Marples, the chairman, says that although the year's performance was gratifying, the group's business continues to operate in difficult market conditions characterized by pressure on margins and a highly competitive environment. In his annual statement, he says there is no room for complacency, rather a determination to overcome these problems.

● **SECURGARD GROUP:** Mr Arthur Baldwin, the chairman, says in his annual statement that the group's policy is to complement its services with a sales and installation drive in the fast developing field of closed-circuit television, slow-scan monitors and perimeter defence systems. The group intends to develop by strategic acquisition and organic growth in the markets which have been identified as providing recurring revenue.

● **SUPREME HOLDINGS:** Mr Ray Horrey, chairman and managing director, says the group is committed to a policy of expansion. In his annual statement, he reports that the group is still looking for suitable sites for new showrooms. The maintenance contracts now offered to customers have proved to be extremely popular.

● **DERBY TRUST:** Mr David Montagu, the chairman, reports that in 1984 world markets presented a rather more mixed appearance than in previous years. Only the British and Japanese markets showed any worthwhile appreciation. In his annual statement, he says the board still frames its investment policy to sustain a balance between both income and capital shareholders.

● **BURCO DEANE:** Mr Michael Henton, the chairman, says in his annual statement that the group has continued to incur losses in the early part of the current year. The sale of the appliance business and the proposed sale of Eastham will result in both the elimination of the kitchen furniture trading losses and of the interest charges associated with the group's substantial borrowings.

● **FACE:** Existing markets and products continue to show significant growth, Mr J. H. M. Mackenzie reports in his chairman's statement. New markets are being continually developed and trading in the first quarter of the current year is well ahead of the record set last year. Another successful year is confidently expected. The group maintains its commitment to product research and development and continues to devote an increasing share of resources to investment in high technology.

● **MOORCREST INVESTMENTS:** Mr J. H. Smith, the chairman, reports a record level of investment during the year, bringing the portfolio to £411 million, comprising 22 investments. In his annual statement, he says that the company will continue to support good management in companies which do not have a bias towards high technology.

● **GESTETNER HOLDINGS:** Joint chairmen Mr D. and Mr J. Gestetner say in their annual statement that further steps are being taken to transition the group from a product-based manufacturing and selling organisation to a broadly-based international distribution and servicing company which will be largely completed. This shift in the nature of the organization, with the benefits from the painful reconstruction, reinforces their confidence in the future.

● **EVODE GROUP:** Mr Andrew Simcoe, the chairman, says in his annual statement the results for 1984-85 should show a return to increasing levels of profitability. During the first quarter, trading conditions have generally been satisfactory and the recent acquisitions have made a good profit contribution. The group is beginning to see some of the benefits of the cost-reduction programme.

● **EAST WORCESTERSHIRE WATERWORKS:** Mr T. Ringrose, the chairman, says in his annual statement that the policy of harnessing new technology in an effort to reduce costs has been maintained. A proportion of the capital programme has been reduced by leasing on attractive terms. The company is in a strong position and is well equipped to meet new challenges with confidence.

● **EDNSPRING INVESTMENTS:** Mr D. W. Duguid, chairman reports that a receiver was appointed to the subsidiary, Oric Products International, on January 31. In his annual statement, he says he hopes that the receiver will continue to trade and will salvage sections of the business which it felt have potential.

THE SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE SOCIETY

109 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5HN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 102nd Annual General Meeting of the Members of The Scottish Mutual Assurance Society will be held in the Central Hotel, Gordon Street, Glasgow, on Wednesday, 27th March, 1985, at 12.15 p.m. to approve the Accounts, Balance Sheet and Reports of the Directors and Auditors, to re-elect Directors and to fix the remuneration of the Auditors.

A Special Resolution will be proposed which will have the effect of altering Regulation 49 of the Society's Regulations to read:

"The Directors shall be entitled to receive remuneration for their services as Directors at such a rate per annum for each Director and such an additional amount for the Chairman as the Directors shall from time to time consistent with any statutory limits decide, calculated in respect of the period for which each Director shall have held office during the year in respect of which remuneration is to be computed but the total remuneration for services as Directors shall not exceed £80,000 per annum together with such additional remuneration as shall be fixed by the Society in General Meeting and such remuneration shall be deemed to accrue from day to day. The Directors may apportion such remuneration among themselves as they think fit. The Directors shall also be paid all reasonable travelling and other expenses incurred by them either in attending Meetings of the Directors, Committees of the Directors, General Meetings of the Society, or otherwise, in connection with the business of the Society."

The actual resolution to be proposed can be inspected and prints of the Society's Annual Accounts and Balance Sheet and Directors' Report can be obtained by Members at the Head Office of the Society or at any of its Branch Offices.

A Member of the Society entitled to attend and vote at any General Meeting is entitled to appoint another person (who need not be a Member of the Society) to attend and vote instead of him. Proxies must be lodged at the Head Office of the Society not less than 48 hours before the time for holding the Meeting.

The attention of Members wishing to attend is drawn to Regulations 5, 23 and 24 of The Scottish Mutual Assurance Society Act 1962.

By Order of the Board, C. G. KIRKWOOD, Secretary.

This advertisement is issued in compliance with the requirements of the Council of the Stock Exchange. It does not constitute an invitation to any person to subscribe for or purchase any securities. The new preference shares, new ordinary shares and warrants referred to herein have been admitted to the Official List by the Council of the Stock Exchange.

R. E. A. HOLDINGS plc

(Registered in England No. 571099)

Rights Issue of 413,330 units at 650p per unit

1,853,320 9 per cent cumulative preference shares of £1 each ("new preference shares"), 413,330 ordinary shares of £1 each ("new ordinary shares") and 413,330 warrants are being offered for subscription to shareholders on the register at the close of business on 1st February 1985 in units of one new ordinary share, four new preference shares and one warrant for every 9 4/9 per cent cumulative preference shares of £1 each or 9 ordinary shares of £1 each then held.

Copies of the listing particulars published in connection with the rights issue and containing details of the new preference shares and of the warrants are available in the External Statistical Services. Copies of the listing particulars may also be obtained during normal business hours today and tomorrow from the Company Announcements Office of The Stock Exchange and on any weekday (Saturdays and public holidays excepted) up to and including 22nd March 1985, from—

R. E. A. Holdings plc,
The Old Rectory,
29, Martin Lane,
London EC4A 0DS

N. M. Rothschild & Sons Limited,
New Court,
St. Swithin's Lane,
London EC4A 4DU

Laurence, Prust & Co.,
Basilidon House,
7/11 Moorgate,
London EC2R 6AH

1st March 1985

Nigeria Airways Introduces "WhisperJet" Airbus A310.

This jet is quite a revolution! With an appreciable reduction in noise level, we have achieved a more peaceful and noiseless environment which our passengers love so much. Some just relax and catch that deserving nap.

The business executive takes the time out to plan his business strategies while others just sit back and enjoy the peaceful atmosphere. More A310s in our fleet means more flight opportunities, daily, for our numerous travellers. We fly to more destinations inside

Africa than any other airline.

Not only that, you can always expect the normal warm African hospitality from our crew, in addition to a choice of well prepared European menu or for the adventurous, some African dishes.

NIGERIA AIRWAYS

No 1 in Africa.



David Miller

Sports Commentary

There is an aspect of the Somerset controversy over whether or not Ian Botham should be reappointed county captain that particularly caught the attention of the other day. The chairman of the committee is reported as saying that, whichever way the committee decided, "we cannot win". What he presumably means is that either decision will be unpopular with some people. Tough luck. This is the price of responsibility and making decisions.

There are too many people in authority to believe they must try to please all the people all the time. This is a fallacious stand. While leadership, almost by definition, is not about popularity but about convincing the correct conclusion and acting upon it. This applies as much to the chairman of the committee as it does to Botham himself when captain.

If the committee believe that it is inappropriate, in consideration of the reputation of the club, to have a captain someone convicted of a drug offence, then they should take that decision irrespective of any subsequent criticism. It is a different issue from whether Botham should continue to play for Somerset and England on account of his error.

There exists a liberal view, among certain intellectual and cultural people, which claims that cannabis is not a drug any more addictive or evil than alcohol or nicotine and that adults should be free to decide for themselves on its use.

But the argument is not whether Botham has personally behaved badly but whether, having broken the law, he is still suitable to lead the county, including maturing teenagers. Most parents, and particularly those with sons, considering joining Somerset, not to say most sports leaders, would say no.

Denis Compton recently made the provocative but quite justifiable assertion, in a BBC radio interview, that England's performance in India had risen because team harmony was better in the absence of Botham's diverting personality. The same principle, against a different background, has been the issue of Boycott's inclusion in the Yorkshire team. There is more for the Somerset committee to consider than simply the kind of magnetic brilliance with which Botham turned the 1981 Test series.

Board's punching power is suspect

After the British Boxing Board of Control's treatment of the Gang of Four cartel - more an award than a condemnation - it is the position of the board which must now come under scrutiny, and in particular one of its members, Colin McEneaney. AIP for Liverpool, McEneaney is a young man, an Oxford boxing Blue and an Olympic silver medalist, but he is not a boxer. He is a man who cannot discern the ways in which the activities of Newcastle Lawless, Duff, Barrett and Aitken are unbecomingly contrary to the interests of at least some boxers, then what is the point of having such a board?

If, as the board stated, the contract to share financial proceeds between a prominent manager, two promoters and a businessman involved in television did not contravene the board's own regulations, then it is time they inserted some regulations, which the cartel would have contravened. The fact that when the contract was signed there was little serious competition in the field of promotion is precisely one reason why the contract compounded what was already wrong.

The emergence of Frank Warren as a promoter offering fighters alternative avenues has been achieved by no means thanks to a board. Can Mr McEneaney, a prominent advocate in the House of professional boxing, really not see such facts?

I recently wrote in defence of boxing, which is under siege from the medical campaign by altruistic neurologists. The secretary of the board, Ray Clarke, wrote to thank me. Yet if the only authority in boxing condones a contract in which the participants might gain an advantage at the expense of others, and encourages the suspicion that it might in fact be dominated by those individuals, then such an authority is questionable as the sport they seek to defend.

Britain's big fight as Games contender

Amid all the talk of prospective bids for the 1992 Olympics, by not only London but Manchester, several factors are consistently being overlooked. The money must come from one of two sources: television rights or domestic investment - in order to finance either existing or new facilities.

Neither London nor Manchester have existing facilities with modernization or renovation for even a handful of the 20 or so sports; so that means new buildings. Since it will be scandalous in view of the present needs of hospitals, schools and housing, to put domestic investment into the Olympics, the money must come from television rights or domestic investment. Therefore no planning could be guaranteed until the Games were to be Britain. How could IOC members support such a risk?

There is no question of a fat profit for a host country. The rules have been changed. Therefore a building budget would be dependent on the organizing committee's two thirds share of 30 per cent of television rights. If advertising rates for sport do not decline, £250 million in 1992 outside American television prime time. Yet the Moscow Games are said to have cost £1,000 million. The Montreal Games lost the same amount. Los Angeles cost £260 million. Can Britain really be serious contenders. With a prospect of providing a suitable village?

England complete their scrappy escape

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

Not until dawn yesterday was England's escape from Belfast complete. They fought their way through the mist and Northern Ireland's challenge, past the car bomb that exploded while they were inside Windsor Park, around narrow side streets bathed in the flashing blue lights of police vehicles and eventually, under the fog that lay across the country.

It seemed appropriate that England's flight should have been diverted to Manchester. There they have left behind their injured captain, Bryan Robson, the United player whose presence has become so influential. "Do you think France would have won the European championship without Platini?" Bobby Robson asked. "That's the sort of quality we are talking about."

Without him, England's middle was unmistakably flabby during their fortuitous 1-0 victory in the World Cup qualifying tie on Wednesday night. Wilkins, whose honest description of his own contribution is unprintable, fell far below his usual imperious standards and Stevens, not known for his constructive abilities, failed to show his destructive strength.

It was Stevens' first real game, Robson said. "He came on as a full back against Finland when we were already comfortably ahead and even I could have played for the last 20 minutes against Turkey. But I didn't know where he and Wilkins were in the first half."

Yet the Irish front line, though undeniably inspired and enthusiastic, posed familiar, if awkward, problems. The most competent of England's defenders should be expected

to hold their own in a domestic argument against the likes of a first division reserve, a second division centre forward (Quinn), who headed against the bar and a Spanish second division player.

Robson admitted that the game could have been disguised as a League fixture. "We had to battle for the points. Liverpool can win 4-0 and stroke the ball around all day, but sometimes they have to scramble to win by the only goal. It is the result that matters, not necessarily the style in which it is achieved."

Hateley claimed the winner as a result of an often does for Liverpool. But, although his run 14 minutes from time was as explosive and deadly as the intentions of the INLA, his display was otherwise largely undistinguished. "He was a little too static," Robson said. "At AC Milan he has become accustomed to being the lone target man. When he is with us, he must adapt and be more mobile. When he does, he is going to be fantastic. The trouble is that we have one training session in which to work things out, that at club level, can take weeks."

England have 90 minutes of genuine practice, against the Republic of Ireland at Wembley on March 26, before going to Romania for their most severe test in group three. Victory in Bucharest would assure them of a place in Mexico. In the time it took to return from Belfast, they could have flown there.

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Faldo's 67 strikes a blow for Europe

From John Ballantine Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Nick Faldo, who shot a 67, including an eagle and six birdies, and Ken Brown, who scored a 69, including six birdies, struck solid blows for Europe in the opening round of the \$300,000 Honda Classic on the 7,037-yard Eagle Trace course in 85-degree early spring sunshine here yesterday.

Both Britons began at the 10th and did the damage on the front nine after making the turn. Faldo, out with Jack Nicklaus and the 1976 United States Open champion, Jerry Pate, reached the 18th in a modest 35, which nevertheless looked good beside the 37 of the erratic Nicklaus.

The tall British No 1 then really got his game going, scoring a birdie three at the 396-yard first and going three under par with a 10-foot putt on the 18th. He shot up the leaderboard close to the early leader, Peter Jacobsen (68), with a magnificent eagle at the 521-yard fifth.

Six Europeans are taking part. Faldo and his Ryder Cup teammate, Brown, who is fresh back on the circuit after a shivery short holiday in Hertfordshire, were first away. The lean Scot did nothing for nine holes, then suddenly began to hole everything, including his faithful old hickory-shafted putter.

He hit an eight-iron to three feet at the first, a seven-iron to three feet at the second, holed from 15 feet for a third birdie at the fourth and neatly negotiated the awkward long fifth with a drive, a well-positioned seven-iron and a wedge over the guarding lake to two feet. He was four under par and looking for something great.

But he took a three-wood cautiously at the sixth, only to drive it under a tree to drop a stroke. He hit a bunker at the short seventh to lose another shot. Finally, he missed a three-foot putt at the eighth, from eight yards off the back of the last green, he rolled in a curling putt for 69.

LEADING MONEY WINNERS: 1. M O Mearns, \$194,825; 2. L Wadsworth, \$183,850; 3. C Eichelberger, \$132,625; 4. C Papp, \$107,545; 5. A Brock, \$17,762; 6. W Buehler, \$74,529; European: 41. B Langer, \$20,400; 45. P Oosterhuis, \$18,427; 46. M Faldo, \$8,794; 62. A Lee, \$18,125; 63. K Brown, \$8,668.

Top crews hold on to their leads

By a Correspondent

There were no changes at the top of the two premier divisions of the Oxford University Torpid on the last yesterday.

Oriel were two lengths clear of Keble in the men's first division as the crews passed the university boathouse and St Catherine's were well clear of Oriel House in the women's top division.

High hopes: Pirmin Zarbrigen in practice yesterday

Brooker brightens up

Todd Brooker, of Canada, who is having a lean season on the World Cup circuit, had the fastest time in yesterday's two practice runs for a men's cup downhill in Furano, Japan, tomorrow. Brooker was followed by Steven Lee, of Australia, and Peter Mueller, of Switzerland. The world champion, Pirmin

Zarbrigen of Switzerland, currently ranked second in overall standings, placed third in the first run, but is expected to do better tomorrow.

In practice for a women's World Cup race in Vail, Colorado, the fastest time was set by the championship leader, Nichola Figal, of Switzerland.

IN BRIEF

Chances go begging as Stevens levels

Steve Davis capitalized on a mistake by Kirk Stevens to take an early lead in the opening semi-final of the £250,000 Dulux British Open snooker championship in Derby yesterday. The world champion led 37-12 against Canada's No 4, but Stevens then made a 43 break before missing a red into the middle pocket, and Davis took full advantage with 33 clearance to the pink, to win 69-57.

Stevens edged out Davis, however, 58-42, in the second frame, to tie up the 17 frame match at 1-1. Davis missing chances to clinch the frame, first on the green and then on the brown.

RUGBY LEAGUE: Mark Rowbottom, the Swinton forward sent off in last week's Challenge Cup game against Salford, has been suspended for two matches. The committee banned Mick Sutton (Carlisle) for one game, but decided that being sent off was sufficient punishment for Greg Sharp (Dewsbury).

SWIMMING: Sarah Hardcastle, Britain's double Olympic freestyle medal winner has withdrawn from England's team for the Speedo International in Weymouth on March 23 because of training commitments. Her place is taken by the 17-year-old Julie Wilmot (Nova Centurion) in the annual contest between the schools' associations of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales.

CRICKET: Northamptonshire have offered an eight-week trial to the fast bowler, Kevin Emery, released by Hampshire at the end of last season. Emery, aged 25, had trials at Northampton as a spin bowler. He turned to pace and in his first season for Hampshire in 1982 took 83 wickets.

GOLF: Four Walker Cup players, head a strong entry for the British team to play on March 9. They are Peter McEvoy, who has an outstanding chance of being selected in the GB and Ireland team for this year's match in America in August, Peter Deble, John Davies and Peter Hedges.

BASKETBALL: Carlisle are to sponsor this year's National championship final at Wembley on March 30 and 31. The sponsorship, part of a three-year agreement, will cover both the men's and women's championships, including the playoffs beginning on March 7.

BOWLS: The first national mixed pairs competition is being launched this summer. The English Bowling Association and the English Women's Bowling Association have agreed to work together for the first time to administer a national tournament, which will be sponsored by McCarthy and Stone, specialists in private sheltered housing for people over 60, with a total prize fund of £5,000.

MOTOR CYCLING: The Honda racing team will be supported by Rothmans (UK) in 1985. The riders involved are Wayne Gardner (Australia), Ron Haslam, Joey Dunlop, Roger Marshall and Roger Burnett.

FOR THE RECORD

WORLD CUP: Group one: Greece 2, Albania 0. Group three: Northern Ireland 0, England 1. Group five: Netherlands 7, Cyprus 1. Group seven: Spain 1, Scotland 0.

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Location	Depth (in)	State of snow	Temp (°C)
SWITZERLAND	40	100	soft
Adelphi	30	170	soft
Chunpui	40	170	soft
Davos	40	170	soft
Lovon	40	170	soft
Crans Montana	50	160	hard
Sane-Pee	70	180	pudd

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Summaries by Peter Dean and Peter Dayalle

[The page contains extremely faint, illegible markings.]

The Queen sees a day in the life of The Times

Historic visit ends as Royal Edition rolls off presses

Continued from page 1

editor, who disclosed that he had written almost 300,000 words on the miners' strike, and solicited her views on the dispute. "It's very sad that anything should have lasted for a year: it's terrible," the Queen replied, going on to discuss Mr Scargill's role.

It was at that moment that newspapers were shown as makers as well as reporters of news. By lunchtime the television news bulletin was reporting the Queen as blaming Mr Scargill for the strike, more of an interpretation than a report of her remarks. The editor went on television later to say that the reports were the result of a muddle, and the newspaper issued a clarifying statement.

"The Queen did not, at any time, say the miners' strike was promoted by Mr Arthur Scargill. She spoke to many members of the staff about their work, including Paul Routledge, the labour editor, who has been covering the miners' strike for the last 12 months."

Mr Routledge said afterwards: "The Queen said the strike was very sad. We had a discussion about the focus now being on one man but she never said the strike was promoted by Mr Scargill."

The Royal party then moved through the newsroom, and the Duke in characteristic fashion peered into a reporters' room piled high with books, leaflets and the other chaos of creation. "What's this remarkable joint?" he exclaimed with the delighted surprise of having made a slightly wicked discovery.

In the design department the Queen met regular cartoonists Mr Peter Brookes, Mr Mel Calman and Mr Barry Fantoni, and wondered from where they plucked their nightly inspiration. Miss Suzy Menkes, the fashion editor, showed her work she was preparing on a profile of Sir Norman Hartnell, and the Queen immediately lighted on a photograph of her own wedding dress, disclosing that Sir Norman's lavish

embroidery had made it very heavy and hot. "When I wore it in Ceylon later, I felt like a radiator," the Queen said.

In the business news department, the Queen bemoaned the state of the pound, and described its currently volatile state as ridiculous. "It all happens so frightfully quickly."

The Queen and Prince Philip later took their seats at the morning editorial conference, where the forthcoming issue was discussed and shaped. They remained for the conference of leader writers, a daily event to which outsiders are rarely admitted, and whose deliberations to reach the paper's editorial view on the issues of the moment are never recorded.

When the Queen and Prince Philip returned to Gray's Inn Road in the evening it was to see the noisier, dirtier end of newspaper production - the engine room rather than the bridge - the mere ideas of earlier in the day being translated into print.

Conducted by Mr George Banyard, the paper's production manager, the Royal visitors saw the composing room, where the front page was being made up in the relative quiet of new technology.

After an informal reception in the paper's boardroom the Royal couple descended to the bowels of Gray's Inn Road where the old technology and the smells of oil, ink and warm paper still predominate.

As she watched number seven press rolled and produced before her the first copies of the Royal Edition, produced regularly for Buckingham Palace, Government offices and foreign embassies but killed by the cost of its high-grade paper in 1970, and revived for one night only.

After watching the papers make their way through the publishing room to the waiting vans, the Royal couple left bearing their personal copies of today's edition. There was a feeling, after 200 years, of some progress; Queen Victoria, it is said, would not even allow the thing in the house.



The Queen laughing with Mr Rupert Murdoch (second right), Mr Charles Douglas-Home (right) and Mr Colin Webb, joint deputy editor



The Duke of Edinburgh with Mr Charles Wilson, joint deputy editor, (centre) and Mr Murdoch and, right, her Majesty with Mr Douglas-Home (centre) and Mr Tony Norbury, executive production editor (Photographs: Harry Kerr, John Manning and Bill Warhurst)

Mubarak initiative stumbles over PLO

By Our Foreign Staff

Prospects for Middle East peace talks in Cairo looked in doubt last night in spite of the positive response to President Mubarak's initiative from Mr Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister.

Israel had announced its readiness in principle to take part in talks with the US, Egypt, and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. But within hours, Mr Muhammad Mithneh, a moderate member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation executive, said the PLO would not accept President Mubarak's proposal of direct peace negotiations with Israel.

The PLO has demanded that it should take part in any talks on an equal basis with other parties. The Egyptian leader told *The New York Times* this week that Palestinian members of a joint delegation would not be known members of the PLO.

President Mubarak said on Monday that he envisaged a two-stage negotiating framework: first, talks between US officials and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, to be followed by a session including Israel and other Arab parties.

In an interview with *The Washington Post* published yesterday, President Mubarak appealed to the US to lend its weight to his efforts.

But the White House said later that it was prepared to help the peace process once direct contacts had been made between the Arabs and Israel. "We are pleased to re-engage in a peace process whenever the parties are ready and in whatever manner they deem appropriate."

In his interview, Mr Mubarak said he was encouraged by what he called increased flexibility by Israel and moderate Palestinians and by recent high-level meetings between Egyptian and Israeli officials.

"The United States cannot continue to sit with its hands folded," he said.

Mr Yitzhak Shamir, Israel's Foreign Minister, said yesterday that Israel objected to Egyptian proposals to a new peace process to begin in Washington.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, President of the World Wildlife Fund International, attends an executive meeting in Gland, Switzerland, departs Heathrow 10.10.

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother attends a concert at the Royal Albert Hall to mark the centenary of the Soldiers, Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association, 7.20. Prince Michael of Kent also attends 7.10.

Princess Anne opens the new Royal Unit at St Bartholomew's Hospital, West Smithfield, 3.15; and later attends the St David's Day London Welsh celebration banquet, The Savoy Hotel, 7.10.

New exhibitions

Paintings and drawings by John

Exhibitions in progress

Portraits on Paper; MacRobert

Art Centre, Strilene University

Mon to Sat 11 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends March 6).

Paintings by Anthony Whishaw; Mappin Art Gallery, Weston Park, Sheffield; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends March 3).

Barry Cullen - glass; John Wheelodon - lustreware; Daphne Garnit - porcelain and new prints by Phil Greenwood; Long Street Gallery, 50 Long St, Tetbury, Glos; Mon to Sat 10 to 1 and 2 to 5.30, closed Thurs afternoon and Sun (ends March 27).

50 years of the British Council; Art Gallery and Museum, Albert St, Dundee; Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30 (ends March 23).

Scottish Young Contemporaries; Art Gallery and Museum, Albert St, Dundee; Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30 (ends March 23).

30 years of the British Council; Art Gallery and Museum, Albert St, Dundee; Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30 (ends March 23).

Scottish Football photographs; Pier Arts Centre, Victoria St, Stranraer; Tues to Sat 10.30 to 12.30 and 1.30 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends March 16).

Concert by the Northern Sinfonia; Ensemble; Hutton Gallery, The University, Newcastle upon Tyne, 1.05.

Concert by the Clare College Choir; Cambridge University Science House, 8.

Charity Gala concert with the NCOs Symphony Orchestra; Assembly Rooms, Bath, 7.15.

Concert by The English Concert; Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford, 8.

Concert by the London Sinfonietta; Durham Cathedral, 7.30.

Recital by Takashi Shimizu (violin) and Gordon Back (piano); North Devon Music Centre, School Drive, Braunton, 7.30.

Concert by the BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra; St David's Hall, Cardiff, 7.30.

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Food prices

There should be an excellent display of quality fish over the weekend. However, flat fish are still scarce, and the best buys in this category are small whole plaice, 60p to 70p a lb, small lemon sole, 21 a lb, and best large from £1.50. The cod fishery has just started, and is good value at 70p to 85p a lb, also pollock at around £1.30 a lb. Cod fillets range from £1.30 to £1.70 a lb, haddock fillets £1.60, and smoked haddock £2.50 a lb. £1.50, and kippers 98p. Scallops at 40p each, mussels from 45p a lb and oysters 58p each are good quality.

Meat prices are stable apart from home produced lamb, which is up a penny or two on all cuts. Stable New Zealand lamb prices make it an attractive alternative, and its usual many shops have it on promotion. Pork chops and boneless shoulder are a little cheaper. Some good meat buys on offer this weekend are: Fine Fare New Zealand lamb loin chops £1.28 a lb, British Home Stores rump steak £2.55 a lb, and minced beef 98p. Sainsbury New Zealand lamb shoulder 72p, and beef topside £1.88. Tesco braising steak £1.64 a lb, and Marks and Spencer New Zealand lamb is down 20 to 25p a lb.

The earlier cold weather is still affecting vegetables. Swedes 18p to 24p a lb, turnips 25p to 30p, and Brussels sprouts, although more plentiful, should be carefully inspected. Cauliflowers are still scarce and therefore expensive at 75p to £1 each. Parsnips are a good buy as they seem to show little frost damage.

Crisp iceberg lettuce 50p to 80p each, Chinese leaves 40p to 50p a lb, cucumber 35-55p each, green and red peppers 60-90p a lb, and avocados 25-45p each (19p at Sainsbury) are all good buys.

Grapefruit, from Jaffa and Cyprus from 12-25p each, oranges 9-22p each and clementines 45-55p a lb are plentiful and good. Pears at 25-45p a lb are probably a better buy than apples at present.

Some egg prices will go up by 2p a dozen at the weekend.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Debate on private member's motion on taxation and benefits.

London: The FT index closed up 0.8 at 981.1

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Roads

Wales and West: A38 Lane closures on both carriageways between Plymouth and Exeter at Marsh Mills viaduct; also lane closures at Kersford, A419, Resurfacing on the Station by-pass, Swindon; contraflow on northbound carriageway, A470; Lane restrictions at Aberystwyth on the Pontypridd to Brecon Rd.

The North: A49: Roadworks on Wiswick St/Crown St, Warrington; local diversion; delays to southbound traffic; A66: Roadworks between North Blith-Creta Bridge, 3 miles E of Bowes, co Durham, A58: Wigan Rd, Warrington, Bolton; closed from the junction with Southfield Drive.

Scotland: A907: Resurfacing two miles W of Kircaldy; single line traffic with temporary lights. A702: Bridge damage at Carleton; single-line traffic with lights (24 hrs). A92 (City of Aberdeen): Lane closures on the Great Southern Rd at King George VI Bridge.

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Weather forecast

A trough of low pressure with cross many W and central areas during the day.

Gant to midnight

London, E Midlands, NW, central N England, Lake District, SW Scotland, Argyle: Rain soon spreading from the W; wind SE fresh; max temp 11C (52F).

SE, central S England, W Midlands, N Wales, Isle of Man, Northern Ireland: Rain, heavy in places, clearing later with clear periods developing; wind SE fresh or strong decreasing light; max temp 11C (52F).

East Anglia, E, NE England: Dry at first with fog patches clearing; rain later; wind SE light increasing moderate or fresh; max temp 10C (50F).

Channel Islands, SW England, S Wales: Sunny intervals and scattered showers; wind SE fresh or strong becoming SW light; max temp 12C (54F).

Borders, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Mostly dry except for drizzle near coasts with persistent fog patches; wind E or SE light increasing moderate; max temp 7C (45F).

Scotland: Mostly dry, bright intervals; wind SE moderate or fresh; max temp 11C (52F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: (Channell) and a little colder generally.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Straits of Dover: Wind SE fresh becoming SW light or moderate, rain then showers; visibility moderate with fog patches becoming good; sea moderate becoming slight. English Channel (E): Wind SW moderate, showers; visibility good; sea slight. St George's Channel: Wind SW moderate becoming S fresh later; showers; visibility good; sea slight becoming moderate, Irish Sea: Wind E strong, locally gale at first becoming mainly S light or moderate, rain at times; visibility moderate with fog patches becoming mainly good; sea rough becoming slight.

Sun rises: 6.48 am Sun sets: 5.41 pm
Moon sets: 10.39 am
Full Moon: March 7

Lighting-up time

London 6.11 pm to 6.14 am
Belfast 6.21 pm to 6.24 am
Edinburgh 6.17 pm to 6.20 am
Manchester 6.17 pm to 6.20 am
Preston 6.24 pm to 6.24 am

Temperatures at midday yesterday: C, cloud; F, fair; R, rain; S, sun; SN, snow.

Alcohol: C 13, F 55

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